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ABSTRACT

"Speak Out for Children" is the quarterly newsletter of the Children's Rights Council (CRC), which is concerned with the healthy development of children of divorced and separated parents. The newsletter consists of feature articles and regular sections and columns. Feature articles of Volume 8, Number 1 are: "The Controversial Truth: Two-Parent Families Are Better"; "Seventh National Conference April 28 - May 2, 1993"; "Clinton Administration and Congress"; "Commission on Child Access"; "Special Financial Child Support Report"; and "Mothers Say Fathers Unable to Pay." Feature articles of Volume 8, Number 2 are: "Liberal Barbara Dafoe Whitehead Says: Dan Quayle Was Right"; "Fundings Pursued for Commission"; "Important Talking Points for Children's Advocates"; and "The Published Views of Hillary Clinton on Children." Feature articles of Volume 8, Number 3/4 are: "Police, Women Forming Groups"; "CRC's 7th Conference: A Success"; and "House Passes Support Modification Bill." Feature articles of Volume 9, Number 1 are: "Access (Visitation) Commission Funded"; "Clinton Panel Surveys Welfare and Child Support"; and "The Use and Misuse of Mental Health Experts in Child Custody Cases." Volume 9, Number 2 features: "Federal Government Distributes CRC Child Support Guideline"; "Insurance and College Funds for Your Child"; and "Better Child Support Data Sought." In Volume 9, Number 3/4, feature articles include: "Welfare Reform, Support and Visitation Grants Proposed"; and "President Clinton Sends Message to Candlelight Vigil." (AP)

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Strengthening Families *Assisting Children of Separation and Divorce*

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SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN™

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ED 386 269

IN THIS ISSUE:

About CRC.....2
Conference April 29, 1993.....3
Letters to the Editor.....5
Around the Country..7
Clinton Administration and Congress.....8
Directory of Organizations.....8
In Congress.....9
Commission on Child Access.....10
Court Cases.....11
Chapter News.....12
Financial Child Support Report.....13
Child Support Data....14
Fathers Unable to Pay..15
CRC Chapters.....17

CRC's 7th National Conference April 29-May 2 1993
See Page 4

PS 023137

Rockefeller Will Lead Discussion on Children of Divorce

U.S. Senator John J. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), who chaired the National Commission on Children, has accepted CRC's invitation to lead a discussion on "How to Encourage the Two-Parent Family, Especially After Divorce" at the start of CRC's Seventh National Conference.

The discussion will include representatives of liberal and conservative think tanks and other analysts on family issues. It is the second time that such a discussion has taken place at a CRC conference.

Although leading analysts on family issues have been speaking individually of the need to strengthen families, the CRC forums offer an opportunity to find common ground among liberals and conservatives, said CRC President David L. Levy.

The discussion will take place Thursday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, across the street from the U.S. Capitol.

The National Commission on Children issued a report in 1992 that spoke of the importance of the two parent family. The Commission is sponsoring a Summit on Children in Washington, D.C. in March, 1993.

Participants in the panel discussion with Rockefeller at the CRC conference will include:

(See more about ***Conference*** *on Page 3)*

The following article was published in the New York Times, December 26, 1992, Op-ED Section. Reprinted with permission of the author.

The Controversial Truth: Two-Parent Families Are Better

By David Popenoe

Associate dean for social and behavioral sciences of Rutgers University, and co-chairman of the Council on Families in America, a research organization.

East Brunswick, N.J.—Consider the Great Family Debate of 1965.

That June, in a speech at Howard University, President Lyndon B. Johnson called "the breakdown of the Negro family structure" the chief threat to the well-being of black Americans. He based that argument on a report by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "The Negro Family: The case for National Action."

The response was overwhelming. Mr. Moynihan was widely denounced as a racist. The storm over black family structure was dismissed as "blaming the victim."

As motivating factor for the War on Poverty, the issue quickly evaporated. Serious debate on the subject became all but impossible.

Senator Moynihan

Now consider the Great Family Debate of 1992. And ponder this fact: the white family structure

(Continued on Page 6)

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC), also known as the National Council for Children's Rights, is a non-profit [IRS 501(c)3] organization, based in Washington, DC. We are concerned with the healthy development of children of divorced and separated parents. For the child's benefit, we seek means of reducing divorce by strengthening families through divorce and custody reform, minimizing hostilities between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial approach, assuring a child's access to both parents, and providing equitable child support.

CRC was founded in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog, and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, or call (202) 547-6227 or 1-800-787-KIDS. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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What is the Children's Rights Council?

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is concerned with the healthy development of children of divorced and separated parents. For the child's benefit, we seek means of strengthening families during marriage. If separation or divorce occur, we work for custody reform, by minimizing hostilities between parents, substituting conciliation and mediation for adversarial litigation, providing equitable child support, and strongly advocating a child's access to *both* parents as well as to extended family.

President Salutes Vigil for 6,650,000 Children Barred From Their Parents

As he did in 1990, President Bush sent a message to CRC's 1992 Candlelight Vigil at the Lincoln Memorial on behalf of positive parenting.

More than 150 people heard the greetings from the President, which were read during the vigil on March 20, 1992 at 9:30 p.m. The Vigil was part of CRC's Sixth National Conference.

The President's message is reproduced at right

The 6,650,000

The vigil served to validate the estimated 6,650,000 children who are having their access (visitation) with their non-custodial parents interfered with by the custodial parents. Legislatures and the courts are doing little to prevent this interference, in CRC's view.

At the vigil a roll-call of the states was read, to indicate how many children in each state are having their access (visitation) denied or interfered with by the custodial parents.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1992

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those who are gathered on the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial for the Candlelight Vigil sponsored by the National Council for Children's Rights.

A happy childhood is one of life's greatest blessings, and how fortunate are those of us who enjoy many fond memories of our youth. Looking back as adults, however, we know that childhood is more than a special time of innocence and of long, carefree days at play - it is a also a crucial time of learning and development. Because childhood experiences help to shape one's identity and values for a life time, every youngster needs the steady affection, encouragement, discipline, and guidance of his or her parents.

As you know, meeting the responsibilities of parenthood is not always easy. In addition to age-old challenges, today's families face additional pressures, such as drug abuse, promiscuity, and crime. That is why your efforts to promote better parenting are so important, and that is why I have appointed a National Commission to study how we can best strengthen the urban American family. I am confident that, by working together in the public and private sectors, we can build more stable and loving families and ensure that all of our children are given the best possible start in life.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for an inspirational ceremony. God bless you.

George Bush

The Estimated Number of Children Whose Access (Visitation) to a Noncustodial Parent is Interfered With by a Custodial Parent

Alabama	115,000	Louisiana	123,000	Ohio	316,00
Alaska	10,000	Maine	88,000	Oklahoma	99,000
Arizona	69,000	Maryland	123,000	Oregon	83,000
Arkansas	65,000	Massachusetts	185,000	Pennsylvania	349,000
California	700,000	Michigan	270,000	Rhode Island	27,000
Colorado	85,000	Minnesota	119,000	South Carolina	99,000
Connecticut	90,000	Mississippi	74,000	South Dakota	19,000
Delaware	16,500	Missouri	144,000	Tennessee	135,000
Dist. of Colum.	18,000	Montana	22,500	Texas	419,000
Florida	298,000	Nebraska	48,000	Utah	45,000
Georgia	161,000	Nevada	22,000	Vermont	15,000
Hawaii	28,000	New Hampshire	27,000	Virginia	157,000
Idaho	27,000	New Jersey	216,000	Washington	122,000
Illinois	336,000	New Mexico	39,000	West Virginia	56,500
Indiana	162,000	New York	518,000	Wisconsin	135,000
Iowa	85,000	North Carolina	172,000	Wyoming	13,500
Kansas	68,000	North Dakota	18,000	**TOTAL**	**6,650,000**
Kentucky	100,500				

Excerpted from the CRC quarterly newsletter Speak Out for Children, *Spring 1992*

CORPORATE VIEW

Divorce Disrupts More than Alcohol or Drugs

Divorce and other marital problems — not alcohol or drug abuse — are the biggest workplace burdens on productivity, according to a survey of Ohio small businesses conducted by the Ohio Psychological Association (OPA). Additionally, OPA released recommendations to help businesses deal with personal or emotional problems in the workplace.

The survey shows that divorce and marital problems are the greatest threat to productivity in the workplace.

"The survey shows that small businesses in Ohio realize that personal problems threaten productivity in the workplace," says Dr. Terry Imar from Columbus.

The survey of 55 small business executives reported that 22 executives say that divorce and other marital problems have a "very negative" impact on workplace productivity, whereas only one-third report a loss of productivity because of substance abuse.

OPA made three recommendations for helping small business:

- establish an employee assistance program (EAP).
- appoint an in-house "resource person."
- provide employees with information on where to get assistance for personal or emotional problems.

Adapted from Behavior Today, *Vol. 21, No. 8, February 19, 1990*

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CRC Helps Children of Separation and Divorce

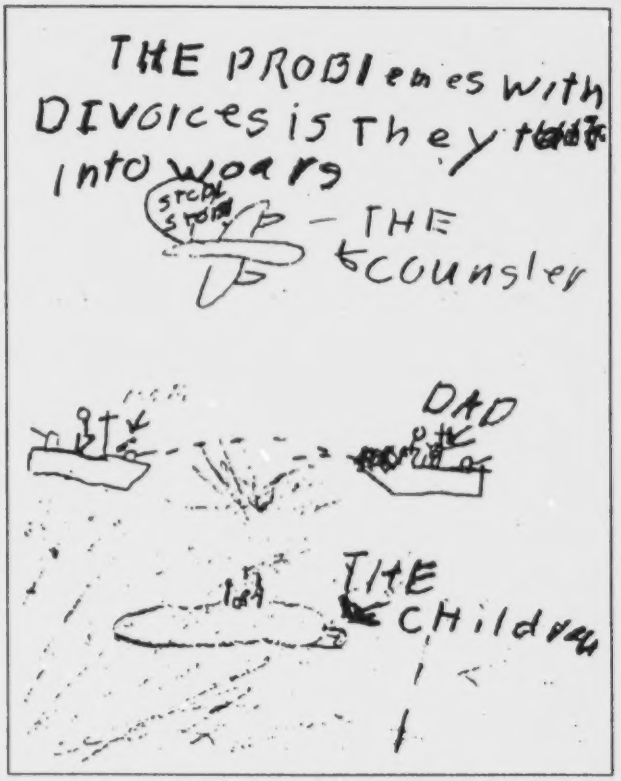
18 MILLION CHILDREN IN AMERICA suffer the pain and consequences of separation and divorce. Frequently traumatized by the family breakup, these children show a far higher rate of delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and running away than children of intact families. CRC's activities are aimed at educating policymakers, judges, lawyers, mental health professionals, and the media on ways to preserve continuity for children in the changing family profile.

"At last, a national organization involved in parenting issues for the separated and divorced."

— Vicki Lansky, Author and Columnist, Family Circle Magazine

CRC's achievements include:

- testifying before Congress on many occasions. CRC is credited as being the moving force behind the first federal authorization — $8 million — for programs to encourage access (visitation) enforcement.
- filing *amicus curae* (Friend of the Court) briefs in numerous state appellate courts in support of the joint custody concept, as well as one brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve jurisdictional claims between states in custody disputes.
- effecting the hiring of an access (visitation) mediator for Prince George's County, MD. This ongoing experiment reports an 80% success rate in resolving visitation complaints, dramatically relieving the county courts.
- developing a resource catalog of more than 75 books, written reports, audio/video cassettes, legal briefs, and children's materials, which are available to the public at low cost. In addition we publish the quarterly newsletter, SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN.
- holding national conferences which bring together prominent professionals from around the country to discuss innovations in establishing and protecting children's rights. Researchers, writers, custody reform advocates, judges, lawyers, legislators, mediators, and mental health experts participate in seminars and workshops.



Drawing made by Adam, age 9

Reprinted from Helping Your Child Succeed After Divorce, *with permission of the author, Florence Bienenfeld, Ph.D.*

CRC is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Your tax-deductible contribution is needed today to support CRC's efforts towards ensuring children's rights.

"The Children's Rights Council is an effective guardian of our nation's children."

— U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ)

"A man never stands so tall as when he leans over to help a child."

—Abraham Lincoln

PLeASe Help!

Rockefeller

Continued from page 1

John J. Rockefeller

Elaine Effron, chair, American Bar Association's Task Force on Federal Legislation;

David Popenoe, Ph.D.Associate Dean of Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Rutgers University;

Elaine Kamarck, policy analyst, the Progressive Policy Institute, known as the Clinton Administration's think tank;

Freya Sonenstein, Ph.D. policy analyst, The Urban Institute, co-author of the 1988 pilot study that showed fathers were paying up to 40% more in financial child support than the Census Bureau had been reporting;

Charmaine Yoest, research analyst, the Family Research Council;

Michael Schwartz, policy analyst, the Free Congress Foundation; and

Susan DeConcini, a child activist and wife of Sen. Dennis DeConcini, who will speak about the needs of children.

A similar discussion on "How to Encourage the Two Parent Family, Especially After Divorce," at the start of CRC's Sixth National Conference in March, 1992 was led by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), chairman of the Senate Committee on Children, Youth, Drugs and Alcoholism.

Seventh National Conference April 28-May 2, 1993

CRC's Seventh National Conference will be held April 28th-May 2, 1993 at the Holiday Inn in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C.

The theme of the conference is "Beyond Rhetoric: Assuring a Child's Right to Two Parents."

In addition to speakers announced in an earlier newsletter (Fall 1992), we have included the following:

Robert Williams

Arnold Rutkin, editor of the Family Advocate, the quarterly publication of the American Bar Association (ABA) Family Law Section, who will lead a roundtable on "The Use and Misuse of Mental Health Testimony in Child Custody Cases." Representatives of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and judicial groups, are being asked to participate.

Hugh McIsaac

Dean Tong, Miami, Florida, author of "Don't Blame Me, Daddy," and Howard Davidson, director of ABA Section on Children and the Law, Washington, D.C., will participate in a discussion on "Real and False Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse." Richard Austin, Ph.D., forensic psychologist, Austin, Texas, will moderate.

Nancy Thoennes

Miriam Cohen

Nicholas Zill

Ethel Dunn, Executive Director Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Madison, Wisconsin, who will speak on Grandparents Connections to Grand children.

Previously announced speakers will include:

Robert Williams, Ph.D., director, Policy Studies, Inc., Denver, Colorado, who is the main evaluator of the federal access/visitation grants that were awarded to seven states. Williams will report on the progress of those grants;

Hugh McIsaac, the immediate past Director of the Conciliation Court of Los Angeles, and the new director of Family Court Services, Portland (Multnomah County) Oregon, will discuss alternatives to the adversarial process for resolution of child custody cases. McIssac edits Mediation Quarterly, published by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts,

David Brenner

Nancy Thoennes, Ph.D., co-director, Center for Policy Research, Denver, Colorado, who will report on two research projects she is directing:

* mediation rather than litigation as a means of resolving child abuse and neglect cases, and

* an assessment of the U.S. foster care system.

Miriam Galper Cohen, Glenside, Pennsylvania, author of "Long Distance Parenting."

Nicholas Zill, a former director of Child Trends, Inc., Washington, D.C., who is now a vice president and study group director, Westat, Inc., Rockville, Maryland. Zill will report on his analysis of the Census Bureau data that shows that fathers with joint custody pay 90.2% of their support, fathers with visitation pay 79.1% of their support, and fathers with neither joint custody nor visitation pay only 44.5% of their support. Other data will be presented on the effects of mothers and fathers on the development of their children.

David Brenner, the TV entertainer who is CRC's Honorary President, will give a benefit performance at the conference.

Book and Author Luncheon

The annual Book and Author Luncheon will be held Friday, April 30. Speakers are expected to include authors Claire Berman; Geoffrey L. Greif, D.S.W; Stephen Herman, M.D.; Vicki Lansky; Marcia Lebowitz; Lita Linzer Schwartz, and Lenard

Continued on page 4

Conference *(Continued)*

Marlow, J.D. The event will be again be emceed by Adrian Cronauer, Esq., the real-life DJ portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie, "Good Morning, Vietnam". Authors will be presented by representatives from The Washington Times, The Alexandria Gazette, the Washington Post, A Likely Story bookstore; Olsson's Books, Brentano's and Waldenbooks. Authors will be available for book signing after the luncheon.

Awards Time Again

At the conference, CRC will present the annual Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "healers" among lawyers, judges and others, and its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques. Nominations must be received by March 20, 1993.

A "healer" might be:

* a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);
* a pre-court trial service which fosters mediation, or
* an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

For media awards, possible contenders are:

* best and worst treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage)
* best and worst media coverage of a county agency helping children of divorce with programs for teenage parents, or
* best and worst TV series on abuse and false abuse charges.

For active parenting possible contenders are:

* organizations and individuals that promote active positive parenting
* programs that help with family formation and family preservation;
* programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Send "Healer" awards nominations to:
Carla A. Goodwin, M.Ed.
Certified Educational Psychologist
820 Washington Street
South Easton, MA 02375
(508) 238-3722

Send "Best in Media" award nominations to:
James Morning, coordinator
CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 629-3310

Send parenting award nominations to CRC. We are seeking a volunteer to review parenting award nominations. Contact CRC if you are interested.

Contribute Items to Auction

At the conference, we will hold an auction. Please contribute items we can auction. Items must be new. Items of any value are welcome. Items may be mailed to CRC or brought to the conference. Thank you.

Take a Chance! Win a Fine Photograph!

An archival quality, color chrome framed print of "Two Horses at Sunrise"—which is ideal for your child's room—has been donated to CRC by internationally known New York photographer Don Carroll.

CRC is raffling this 16" by 20" photograph at our conference. The signed and numbered photographic print and frame are valued at $600.00. Only 500 tickets will be issued.

Carroll is a space and effects photographer whose photographs have appeared in leading newspapers and magazines (including the cover of Paris Vogue, Dec/Jan. 1993).

Purples, lavenders and yellows are some of the colors in the photograph, which is chemically treated to resist fading.

If you wish to purchase raffles, please complete the order form below. Send with $2 for each raffle ticket you want (or $5 for three) with your check, Visa, MC or AMEX information to Dr. Gary Santora, 6723 Whittier Avenue, Suite 101, McLean, VA 22101, phone (703) 893-6325.

Please also enclose a self-enclosed stamped envelope; your tickets will be mailed to you. You do not have to be present at the drawing to win.

RAFFLE TICKETS
For
"Two Horses at Sunrise"
ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

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No. of tickets ordered ____

Amount enclosed ____

Visa, MC, AMEX No.

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Exp. date ____

Conference *(Continued)*

Holiday Inn Worldwide Sponsors Conference

We are pleased to announce that Holiday Inn Worldwide is the sponsor of CRC's Seventh National Conference. This is the first time that CRC has sought and obtained a corporate grant for one of our conferences.

Also, Holiday Inn Worldwide, the world's leading hotel chain, invited CRC to participate on its corporate Family Advisory Board. CRC Director of Development Clifton A. Clark represents CRC on that Board.

During meetings of the Board in Orlando, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia, Clark learned that the hotel chain was seeking to identify Holiday Inn as the official hotel for family fun. "They not only wanted to provide consistent hotel value for families," said Clark, "but also to be considerate of family values."

"We are grateful to Holiday Inn for sponsoring our Seventh National Conference, and showing this concern for children," said Clark.

Letters to the Editor

Mediation Recommended: THE FIRE TRUCK PHENOMENON

Editor:

Have you ever noticed how many people gather around to watch the neighbor's house burn down?

Have you ever noticed how the media panders off the hard luck stories of victims?

Have you ever noticed how people generalize from worst case scenarios?

Recent articles in The Wall Street Journal, McCall's Magazine, and other periodicals have used the "Fire truck Phenomenon" to portray the "horrors" of mediation by using worst case scenarios and incomplete information.

Mediation has been described as harmful for women and mediators have been accused of strong-arming people into agreements that they don't want.

If this is happening, it is not just news, it's bad news. It's also bad mediation practice, and the culprits should be held accountable. But worse case scenarios are not the full story.

How about the many couples who have used mediation in divorce with dignity? How about the many families who have successfully used mediation to reach agreements about plans for children and division of property and personal possessions. Not newsworthy? Not tragic enough? No fire trucks?

These stories may not sell newspapers because they are not newsworthy, but they are noteworthy.

Thousands of families have used mediation to resolve conflicts and to reach decisions that they believe are in the best interest of their children.

This is not to say that mediation is for everyone. Some people do not want to collaborate. And in some cases, power imbalances and safety issues should rule out the use of mediation. Proper screening and intake procedures should be in place to address these concerns.

Further, mediation is not a substitute for able legal representation. Nor should mediation be a barricade for those who need court intervention.

Rather, mediation is one option for couples to consider among a variety of dispute resolution procedures. Advocating that alternatives should be taken away from couples doesn't seem very "family friendly."

Note: This is what I'd like to say to the editors of the newspapers and magazines who print these kinds of worst case scenarios. But a wise person once told me, "Never start a fight with someone who buys ink by the barrel. You're likely to get burned."

Ann Milne, A.C.S.W., mediator,
Executive Director, The Association of
Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)
Madison, WI

Two-Parent Families

Continued from page 1

today is astonishingly similar to the black family structure in 1965.

For example, in 1965, 51 percent of black teen-age mothers were single. In 1990, among white teen-age mothers, 55 percent were single. In 1965, 26 percent of black babies were born out of wedlock; in 1990, 19 percent of white babies were born to unwed mothers.

But today, as in 1965, anyone who brings up the issue of family structure is ridiculed and dismissed. Apparently we are still to believe that the two-parent family is simply one of several options.

We are warned against "blaming" single mothers. And we are to speak not of "the family" but of "families," thus implicitly validating all family forms.

In a front-page article (Fall 1992), The Washington Post reported that, according to "a searching re-evaluation by social scientists," the "conventional two-parent household may be far less critical to the healthy development of children than previously believed."

In a recent book review in the prestigious Journal of Marriage and the Family, an author was taken to task for perpetuating "the misguided belief that children will receive better parenting in intact families."

What Families Show

Wait a minute. While recognizing that two-parent families may not always be possible, that many are dysfunctional and that many nontraditional families are successful, are we not at least able to say that two-parent families are generally best for children? Certainly that is what generations of Americans have always believed and what most Americans, including virtually all children, still believe today.

Look at the evidence.

The article in the Washington Post cited a few studies that played down the differences for children between two-parent and other families. But dozens of other studies that reached the opposite conclusion could have been mentioned.

The 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, for example, found that "young people from single-parent families or stepfamilies were two or three times more likely to have had emotional or behavioral problems than those who have both of their biological parents present in the home."

Of course, social science research is almost never conclusive. There are always methodological difficulties, and stone's left unturned.

Yet in three decades of work as a social scientist, I know of few other bodies of data in which the weight of evidence is so decisively on one side of the issue; on the whole, for children, two-parent families are preferable to single-parent families and stepfamilies.

If our prevailing view on family structure hinged solely on scholarly evidence, the current debate would never have arisen in the first place.

But today, as in 1965, this debate hinges less on scholarly evidence than on cultural values. After all the data are tabulated, we must still wrestle with an essentially normative question: How do we assess the family trends of recent decades?

As an institution, the family has been in a steep decline, by most statistical measures.

In the past 30 years, the divorce rate has tripled. So has the percentage of children living in single-parent families. Out-of-wedlock births have quadrupled. Fertility has dropped nearly 50 percent.

What Studies Show

Studies have shown that parents spend increasingly less time with their children. There is strong scholarly agreement that underlying this trend has been a prolonged shift in cultural values away from family commitment and toward self-fulfillment.

But is this trend positive or negative? The positive view says that adults today are more able to achieve full individual development.

As one influential book, "Brave New Families," by Judith Stacey recently concluded: "The 'family' is not here to stay. Nor should we wish it were. On the contrary, I believe that all democratic people, whatever their kinship preferences, should work to hasten its demise."

What is wrong with the family? It distorts and devalues "the diverse means by which people organize their intimate relationships," Ms. Stacey writes.

The negative view is that self-gratification has surpassed self-sacrifice and that Americans are much less willing to invest time and energy in family life. The value placed on children has dropped. And it is not even clear that most adults have become more personally fulfilled.

I believe that the weight of the evidence is on the negative side. Delinquency, teen-age suicide, child abuse and other problems are demonstrably worse in families without a mother and a father.

Several commissions have compiled evidence showing that we may have the first generation of children in history who are worse off in important behavioral and psychological respects than their parents were at the same stage of life.

These facts lie behind a growing belief that America is suffering not only from an economic recession but from a social recession as well—a decline in social order and civic virtue and a rise in psychological impairment.

Sure, nontraditional families can be successful, and they deserve our sympathy and support.

But here is what social scientists call a confirmed empirical generalization; these families are not as successful as conventional two-parent families.

Want further confirmation? Ask any child which kind of family he or she prefers.

Around the Country

California

Joint Custody Support Needed

Letters are still needed to key members of the California legislature urging them to keep intact that state's joint custody law, reports James A. Cook, president of the Joint Custody Association, Los Angeles.

That law provides:

* it is the policy of the state that children shall have frequent and continuing contact with both parents;

* in awarding sole custody, the court shall consider, as one of several factors, which parent is most likely to encourage contact of the child with the other parent.

Although no bill has been introduced to change these California provisions, an interim hearing was held November 9, 1992 in Los Angeles by the Senate Select Committee on Women in the Workforce.

A number of testifiers at the hearing:

* opposed the concept of a child's continuing contact with both parents, because such contact is supposedly too confusing to the children;

* favored establishment of a rebuttable presumption that the primary caretaker obtain sole custody in California. Primary caretaker is the person who took the most care of the child prior to the divorce;

* opposed mediation because it makes women appear as pathological.

* asked for assurance that custodial parents could move anywhere at anytime with the children, especially if they wished to move to other states.

James A. Cook testified from the opposite point of view.

Cook stressed that children have two parents to which they are attached, and the primary caretaker approach would start the warfare all over again between the parents.

CRC sent an "Action Alert" to its supporters in December, 1992 urging letters be mailed to key California legislators in support of the joint custody law.

Lou Ann Bassan, new CRC California state coordinator, urges that many more letters continue to be written. She said "substantial numbers of women favor a child's right to two parents, but their views were not considered by the committee that held the hearing in November."

Lou Ann Bassan

Bassan said she and Patricia Gehlen, the coordinator of CRC's new chapter in Sacramento, California, are mobilizing support among men, women, and grandparents for continuing California's current statute.

California is a bellwether for the nation when it comes to domestic relations law, Bassan noted, so what happens in California will affect the rest of the country.

Write Letters

She and CRC urge all supporters of joint custody (shared parenting) to give their reactions to:

* Senator Bill Lockyer, chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; and

* Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, Chairman, Assembly Judiciary Committee, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

To obtain the three pages of Cook's testimony before the Committee, send $15.00 for postage and handling to Cook at 10606 Wilkins Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

The addresses and phone numbers for Bassan and Gehlen are in the CRC chapter news elsewhere in this issue.

Washington, D.C.

Kinship Care Law Passed

With the help of CRC, Washington, D.C. has a new law that makes it easier for grandparents and other kin to provide medical care and other services for children when the children's parents delegate such authority to the kin.

The impetus for a "kinship care" bill began when grandparents, most of them grandmothers, complained that the children's parents might be sick, on drugs, or in jail, and the grandparents were now caring for the children; but the grandparents then found that schools and medical providers were unwilling to provide medical needs or enroll the children in school because the grandparents did not have custody of their grandchildren.

A legislative committee was formed in D.C. among activist groups who work on issues involving children, grandparents, women, AIDS victims, and families in poverty.

Initially, the committee drafted a bill that would only have allowed custodial parents to delegate authority to kin. At the urging of David L. Levy, CRC president, and John Siegmund, CRC senior policy analyst, who were on the legislative committee, the committee adopted a proposal that would allow either parent to delegate whatever authority that parent had.

Levy and Siegmund argued that a non-custodial parent who had care of the child on a weekend or during the summer might need to arrange for medical care, pick-up from a school or camp activity, or make other provisions for the child during the time when the non-custodial parent was responsible for the child.

The committee adopted this reasoning in its final proposal. The bill was then introduced by D.C. Councilman William Lightfoot, was passed unanimously by the D.C.

The Clinton Administration and Congress

The Department of the executive branch of the Clinton Administration that most clearly deals with issues of concern to CRC—family formation, family preservation, and the restructured families of divorce—is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sometimes called the "domestic Pentagon", because of its huge size—more than 125,000 employees, and a budget of nearly $600 billion a year, the new Secretary of HHS is Donna Shalala.

Shalala was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the first women to head a "Big 10" Campus. She is a former board chairman of the Children's Defense Fund.

In Congress, Robert Matsui, Democrat of California (from the Sacramento area) becomes the new acting head of a key House subcommittee that also deals with the issues of family formation, family preservation, and the restructured families of divorce.

Matsui replaces Tom Downey (D-NY), who was defeated for re-election in November.

It is in Matsui's panel, the Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, that the 1988 Family Support Act (which also contained a provision for access/visitation grants) originated.

That subcommittee also considered the Family Preservation Act, which was passed by the House in 1992 but vetoed by President Bush.

Matsui and his wife Doris were active in the California campaign for President Bill Clinton. Doris was named deputy assistant to the president and deputy director of public liaison in the Clinton White House.

William Galstion has been named Deputy Assistant to the President on Domestic Policy. Galston, who was with the Progressive Policy Institute, the think tank for Clinton, is a contributor to the book entitled "Mandate for Change," published by the Progressive Policy Institute. " Mandate for Change" is recommended for Clinton–watchers.

Directory of Organizations

Copies of CRC's "Parenting International Directory," the fourth edition of its directory, are still available in hard copy (updated annually) and on IBM 5 1/4" disk (updated semi-annually). The cost is $12.00 for either format for CRC members, and $15.00 for non-members.

The directory can be a valuable resource in making referrals around the country to and from your organization.

Order your copy of the fourth edition now from CRC.

The fifth edition will be available in the summer of 1993.

Around the Country *(Continued from page 7)*

City Council, and signed into law by Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly.

The bill, modeled after "kinship care" bills in effect in more than 20 states, is a temporary measure that will be in effect in Washington, D.C. until the fall of 1993, when permanent legislation authorizing "kinship care" will have to be passed. CRC will continue working with other members of the Committee to recommend permanent legislation.

Child Wins Right to Dismiss Attorney

An 11-year old boy has won the right to fire his court-appointed lawyer in his parent's divorce case. The ruling by a New York state judge in Brooklyn reflects the new emphasis on children's rights in court.

The judge ruled that Shane P., whose parents are in a divorce fight that has lasted five years, could reject a court-appointed lawyer whom he didn't like.

The groundbreaking decision follows a well-publicized case in 1992, in which a Florida boy successfully fought to terminate his parental rights with his natural mother so he could be adopted by his foster parents.

In most states, children have the right to a representative in custody cases, but generally children use a court-appointed lawyer. Unlike adults, children usually have no say in choosing or rejecting who their court-appointed lawyer will be.

In the Brooklyn case, Judge William Rigler vetoed the first lawyer Shane choose to replace the original attorney. The judge, who asked that the family's name not be made public, said Shane's father took too much of a hand in the selection of the replacement, Martin Guggenhein, a New York University law professor and specialist in children's rights.

Instead, the judge appointed Nancy Duncan, a New York attorney. Ms. Duncan, of Abbot, Duncan, Weiner & Reich, hadn't met Shane or his father before she was appointed.

Children have sometimes been allowed to pick their own lawyers in child-abuse or neglect cases. Judge Rigler's decision is apparently the first involving a child's right to fire or select an attorney in a divorce proceeding.

Supreme Court of the State of New York, Brooklyn, Index No. 24525/87.

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

Family and Medical Leave Bill Passes

Congress passed early in 1993 the Family and Medical Leave bill, which would guarantee unpaid leave for 16 weeks to care for a newborn child, a sick child, or sick parent. The bill previously passed Congress, but was vetoed by President Bush. CRC supported the bill.

Proponents have argued that such a law is necessary and pro-family. Opponents have argued that businesses should be allowed to develop such programs voluntarily, as many are increasingly doing.

President Clinton

A survey of executives made in 1991 at major U.S. companies reveals that employees want a greater balance between family and career. This trend has been widely referred to as "parent tracking". The survey indicates these executive say their organizations should accommodate their employees' wishes.

The survey was developed by Robert Half International, a major personnel firm in the accounting, finance and information systems fields. It was conducted by an independent research firm, which polled 200 executives from the nation's 1,000 largest companies.

Among the survey highlights:

* 92 percent of executives feel employees in general are more concerned with balancing family duties and jobs today than they were five years earlier;

* Nearly half (49 percent) said the number of ambitious executives willing to work long hours on a fast career track has decreased over the same time period, with the overwhelming reason (59 percent) being a desire for more time with family;

* More than two-thirds (68 percent) said companies SHOULD offer a "parent track," or slower career path, to allow a working parent more family time;

* Two-thirds (66 percent) think male executives will be more likely to take advantage of paternity leave options five years from now.

A 1990 Robert Half Survey showed that although 31 percent of companies offered paternity leave, only one percent of eligible employees took advantage of it.

In commenting on the changed perceptions, Max Messmer, chairman of Robert Half International, said the survey shows that corporate policymakers are beginning to acknowledge the changing priorities of today's workforce, in which "men want to shoulder greater responsibility in rearing their families."

The Half survey was confirmed by a Du Pont work and family study released April 17, 1992 that indicates more than half of the company's male employees surveyed favor flexible work options to balance both responsibilities.

Fifty-six percent of the men expressed interest in flexibility, compared to 37 percent five years earlier.

Surveys conducted at three major Du Pont U.S. sites included 8,500 employees. Seventy percent were men, the majority from dual-career households, one in five families of which were dependent on outside child care.

The Du Pont study showed a growing consensus between men and women about flexible work options.

Men also reported having as much or more difficulty than women in finding support for child care needs.

For more information, contact at Robert Half, Lynn Taylor, 415-854-9700, or Marc Silver, 415-516-4700, and at Du Pont, Lori A. Polts, 516-302-2744.

Stride Rite Intergenerational Center

The Stride Rite Corporation, the first company to open an on-site, employer-sponsored childcare center in the U.S. in 1971, opened an intergenerational day care center in its corporate headquarters in February, 1990.

The Center, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is designed to provide day care on children and elders in the same facility.

The program serves about 55 children between the ages of 15 months and six years, and 24 elders 60 years or older. About one half of the openings are for Stride Rite's employees, and the other half is for low-income elders and children from the Somerville-Cambridge community.

Wheelock College in Boston provides the academic framework to support the research and curriculum development of this program.

Stride-Rite manufactures children's and adults' shoes under the brand names Stride Rite, Keds, and Sperry Topsider.

Karen Leibold, director of Stride Rite Work/Family Programs, says "we have had an overwhelming response (to the intergenerational Center) since it opened."

For further information, contact Ms. Leibold at Stride Rite, 5 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142, phone 617-491-8800.

Note; Stride-Rite also offers its 3,600 employees flexible work schedules, some part-time work, paid disability leave for childbirth, unpaid family leave, lunchtime seminars on family issues, and an on-site fitness center at the company headquarters.

Quotable Quotes

"Promoting a legal system of litigation is institutional domestic violence, and promoting child custody battles is the cruelest form of child abuse" — said John Pattan, Ph.D., a divorce mediator and director of Human Resources for a medical supply company in Macon, Georgia. He spoke to the Macon, Ga. chapter for the Georgia Council for Children's Rights, December, 1992. For further information, telephone Pattan at 912-750-8958.

Funding Pursued for Commission on Child Access and Other Issues

Congress will be asked to provide $2 million to fund the national Commission on Child and Family Welfare, which would have a special emphasis on child access (visitation).

The commission is part of 18 U.S. Code 228 (the Hyde/Shelby bill), passed unanimously by Congress last October, which would make it a federal crime to flee across state lines to "willfully" avoid payment of financial child support.

The bill received final Congressional approval on October 6, 1992, and was signed by the President.

Under Congress's two-step process, the authorization for the commission must now await Congressional funding.

Senator Herbert Kohl

Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI), the major sponsor of the interstate commission, tried to get Congress to fund $2 million for the commission, but the rush to Congressional adjournment in early October made the funding bid impossible. $2 million is the same cost as the Child Support Commission previously authorized by Congress. Kohl said he is in the process of seeking Congressional funding for the Commission at this time.

Members of the commission would not be appointed until after the funding is approved, which means that the commission members probably would not be appointed until mid-1993 at the earliest.

"The commission is expected to provide a national forum that the United States has needed for a long time on access (visitation) issues," said CRC President David L. Levy.

Commissioners to be Named

Fifteen commissioners, who serve without compensation, but who will receive travel and per diem expenses to hearings and meetings, are to be appointed as follows:

* 3 by the president of the United States,
* 4 by the President pro tempore of the Senate,
* 2 by the Senate minority leader,
* 4 by the Speaker of the House, and
* 2 by the House minority leader.

The President pro tempore of the Senate is Robert C. Byrd (D-WV), the Speaker of the House is Thomas Foley(D-WA), the Senate minority leader is Robert Dole (R-KS), and the House minority leader are Bob Michel (R-IL).

The law provides that the commissioners are to be:

"(a) persons who have expertise in family law, children's issues, mental health, and related policies;

"(b) persons who have expertise, through research and practice in laws and policies related to child and family welfare;

"(c) persons who represent organizations that seek to protect the civil rights of children;

"(d) persons who represent advocacy groups that work for the interests of children;

"(e) persons who represent advocacy groups that work for the interests of both custodial and non-custodial parents; and

"(f) persons who have conducted extensive research on, or delivered services to, children adversely affected by divorce."

Individuals who have contacted CRC expressing an interest in serving on the Commission have not indicated which category they believe they represent, noted Levy. "We must have good candidates in each category to propose to those who make the appointments," he said.

Child Support Provisions

The new law, 18 U.S. Code 228, makes clear that a person must "willfully" fail to pay child support, and be more than one year and more than $5,000 in arrearages. The first conviction would result in a fine and six months imprisonment or both, and subsequent convictions could result in a fine and up to 2 years in prison. The court would also be ordered to require payment of the outstanding child support obligation.

In statements in the Congressional Record of September 21 and October 7, 1992 Kohl made clear that the federal authorities must prove that a parent "willfully refused to pay his or her child support arrearages. This...will help protect non-custodial parents who cannot pay child support because they are unemployed or underemployed. And the willful nonpayers would still be penalized."

(Copies of the six pages from the two Congressional Records referred to above, which contain a complete copy of the law, can be obtained from CRC for $3.00 for CRC members and $5.00 for non-members.)

First Known Case Brought Under New Law

In the first known case brought under 18 U.S. Code 228, Tim Smith, an attorney in Alabama, filed charges on behalf of a custodial mother in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama, Southern Division, Civil. The suit was against Danny Dickens, a non-custodial father who lives in Illinois.

Dickens' sister, Donna Robbins, of Oquaka, Illinois, contacted a U.S. Senator's office, who then put them in touch with CRC. As a result, the Family Resolution Council of Richmond, Virginia, an affiliate of CRC, filed a motion to dismiss the suit because it was not the intent of Congress to allow parents to bring civil actions under Title 18 U.S.C. 228.

The new law is a criminal statute, and only federal prosecutors are authorized to prosecute under the statute.

Dickens, who has never been to Alabama, and did not flee Alabama to avoid paying support, admits owing child support, but is unsure of the amount. He is, according to his sister, Donna Robbins, indigent, unemployed, and has health problems. He lives at this brother's house in Illinois.

Donna Robbins wrote to the Family Resolution Council that "your (pursuing this case) has helped to restore my faith in human nature."

The matter is pending in the Alabama court.

Court Cases

Obligor's Income Can be Imputed

A trial court did not err by ordering a non-custodial mother to pay support for her two children of a prior marriage based on her earning capacity, rather than her actual income, where she had voluntarily quit her job in order to remain at home to care for the child of her current marriage, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals ruled.

Affirming the trial court's order calculating the mother's obligation based on an earning capacity of a minimum wage of $4.25 an hour, the appeals court said that "(her) election to forego employment for the benefit of her most recent child operates to the detriment of her other children—whose needs for support are certainly no less."

The court said that where, as here, a support obligor voluntarily ceases working, and other facts in the case so warrant, bad faith on the part of the obligor need not be proven in order to allow a court to base a support order on the obligor's earning capacity rather than actual present earnings.

Roberts v. Roberts, Wis CtApp 4th Dist, No. 92-1432, 12/17/92.

Remarriage Not Grounds for Change of Custody

The fact that a child's divorced parents have both remarried does not constitute a sufficient change of circumstances to justify changing the child's custody from his mother to his father, the Illinois Appellate court, Second District, has decided.

Neither parents' remarriage alone adversely affected on the child's needs or his best interests so as to support a modification of custody, the court said.

However, the court went on to hold that the fact that the child had matured since the parties divorce in 1985—he was now 14 years old—and that he wanted to live with his father in order to develop a stronger bond with him support the trial court's finding of a change of circumstances relating to the child's best interests. Accordingly, it affirmed the lower court's order changing the child's custody to the father.

In re Anderson (Buchs); Ill AppCt. 2dDist. No. 2-92-0010, 10/20/92, released 12/7/92.

Stress on Child Irrelevant to Modify Custody

The claim of a certified social worker that a child suffered symptoms of stress attributable to her custodial mother's pending move from Kentucky to West Virginia did not satisfy the statutory requirements for modifying the child's custody, the Kentucky Supreme Court has ruled.

Approving the lower court's refusal to change custody, the court found that the child's father had failed to show that the child's present environment seriously endangered her physical or emotional well-being such that the advantages to the child of a change in custody outweighed the probable harm caused by a change.

It cited with approval the court of appeals comment in this case that the courts can not force a custodial parent to remain in one place in order to retain custody of a child. Two justices dissented, saying that the court had misread the Kentucky modification statute and thereby denied trial courts the power to change custody except in the most extreme cases.

Wilson v. Messinger; Ky SupCt, No. 91-SC-737-DG, 11/19/92.

Divorced Parent Does Not Have to Pay College Costs

A court erred in ordering a divorcing father to contribute towards his son's college education costs, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has held. The court found no statutory or case law support for the principle—relied on for several years by the lower courts—that a parent has a duty to financially assist a child over the age of majority who is attending college.

It distinguished its most recent holding on this question, issued in 1971, in which it permitted a woman to enforce a decree-incorporated agreement whereby her ex-husband had obligated himself to pay their children's college expenses to the extent that he was financially able.

Pennsylvania legislation has not followed other states, such as Indiana and Illinois, in imposing a statutory duty upon a parent to provide support for a child's college education after majority, the court said. The duty in Pennsylvania ends when a child reaches age 18, or upon the child's graduation from high school, whichever comes later.

Blue v. Blue, Pa SupCt. No. 203 ED 1990, 11/13/92.

(Editor's note: CRC seeks data and success stories on children who were able to attend college with help from their non-custodial parents. Is there a correlation between: 1) the type of custody and/or access/visitation and the non-custodial parent's willingness to contribute to college education?, and 2) between the level of education attained and the non-custodial parent's contribution to the cost of education of the child?)

Jurisdiction Changed After Flight

An Illinois court acted properly in deferring to the jurisdiction of Louisiana over custody proceedings filed there by a mother who had defied the Illinois court by taking her children from Illinois, the Illinois Appellate Court, Second District, has ruled.

Although the Illinois court made clear it did not condone the mother's conduct in removing the child in violation of a court prohibition against doing so, the court said the father had subsequently condoned the mothers' conduct. The court said the father was present during a telephone conversation in which the Illinois court agreed to Louisiana taking jurisdiction, and the father initiated a custody proceeding in Louisiana more than six months after the move.

One of the jurisdictional standards of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA), the court pointed out, is that a state is considered the home state for the child for at least six months before the commencement of proceedings.

The court said the mother had sole custody of the children at the time of her move and thus did not unilaterally remove them from Illinois for the purpose of gaining custody.

In re Rizza (Olsewski); Ill AppCt. 2dDist. No. 2-91-92, released 12/7/92.

Restitution Ordered for Absconding

A non-custodial mother who pled guilty to the crime of interference with the custody of children, based on her absconding with her children to Louisiana, will have to pay restitution to their father for expenses he incurred while searching for them, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled.

Reversing a lower court's rule, the court held that because the father's losses did not result directly from the crime for which the mother was convicted, the sentencing court could not order restitution as part of the mother's sentence under the state criminal restitution statute. However, it continued, the sentencing court did have statutory authority to impose restitution as a condition of probation. Finding restitution appropriate in this case, the Supreme Court indicated this will serve the purpose of rehabilitating the mother as well as giving the father some measure of redress.

Pennsylvania v. Harner (Williamson); PA SupCT. Nos. 90 & 91 MD 1991, 11/12/92)

The first case above was adapted from The Wall Street Journal, November 10, 1992. All other cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter, and appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Chapter News

Georgia

More than 250 men, women and children converged on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol January 10, 1993 to participate in a candlelight vigil demonstrating concern for the state's "at risk children of divorced separated and unwed parents."

Sonny Burmeister

The vigil, on the eve of the opening of the 1993 Georgia legislative session, focused on "Not just family values, but valuing families."

Sponsors of the vigil—the largest ever held on behalf of a child's right to two parents and extended family—were the Georgia Council for Children's Rights, CRC National, Fathers are Parents Too, Inc., Divorcing Mothers/Fathers support groups, Georgia Alliance for Children, National Black Men's Health Network, and Georgia Grandparents & Grandchildren, Inc.

Speakers were LaCretia Head, statewide president, Fathers Are Parents Too; Janet Tharp, Atlanta Regional Certified Director, Rainbows for All God's Children, Inc.; and David L. Levy, Esq., President, CRC.

Coordinator was Sonny Burmeister, president of the Children's Rights Council of Georgia. "Child Welfare Equals Family Wellness!" said Burmeister.

The event was covered on Atlanta TV and in the Atlanta Constitution the next morning.

Alabama

In 1992, the Alabama legislature passed a bill creating a non-partisan, "silver-haired legislature." What it means is that for every legislative district there shall be a non-salaried person over age 60, called a "silver-haired delegate," who is trained in the legislative process.

E.D. Wilson

These delegates can draft legislation of any subject, although it must be introduced by the regular elected legislator. "The silver-haired legislator can monitor the legislation all the way until it becomes the law or is defeated."said Wilson. "Politicians tend to listen to senior citizens because their percentage of voting is much higher than for any other group."

E.D. Wilson is a silver-haired legislator from his district, and plans to use that position to help educate legislators on the need for balanced family law legislation.

In Alabama, to get elected to the silver haired legislature, a person over 60 must gather a petition signed by 26 senior citizens, and his or her name is then entered on the ballot in the legislative district with other candidates. The winners get training in the legislative process and then work as closely as they can with their regular elected legislator.

Wilson says 24 other states have also created "silver-haired legislatures."

Virginia

The Children's Rights Council was selected by the Clinton Administration to be an official "bell-ringer" Sunday, January 17, 1993 at the historic bell tower at the state capitol in Richmond, Virginia.

Murray Steinberg

The Richmond bell-ringing, at a bell-tower designed by Thomas Jefferson, was part of a nationwide "bells for hope" celebration at the start of the Clinton Administration. Bells were rung at churches and state capitols throughout the country.

At the Richmond ceremony, all three Virginia chapters of CRC held a candlelight vigil "to bring light to the needs of Virginia's children of divorce," said Michael Ewing of Tidewater CRC, coordinator of the event.

About 75 men, women and children heard Christine Hunt, a police officer and children's rights activist; David L. Levy, Esq., CRC president; and Louis Anderson, who was featured on a "48 Hours" broadcast on January 13, 1993. The moderator was Murray Steinberg, president of the Family Resolution Council of Richmond, a CRC affiliate.

The event was covered by TV and newspaper reporters.

Media Notes

"48 Hours", the popular national CBS Television Show, featured access/visitation problems on an hour-long show about fathers that aired on January 16, 1993.

The access/visitation segment featured the Children's Rights Council of Tidewater, Virginia. The continuing effort by Louis Anderson, a member of the chapter, to have a meaningful relationship with his daughter, was featured. Anderson wore a "Help Stop Crime, Give Children Two Parents" CRC T-shirt throughout the segment, and sported a "A Child's Right 2 Parents" CRC bumper sticker on his car during the segment.

Although "48 Hours" could have focused more on children, and missed an opportunity to mention an "800" number which CRC had obtained to handle phone calls from the show, more than 400 people nevertheless made the difficult effort of locating either the Tidewater chapter (in Norfolk Virginia) or CRC National in Washington, D.C.

Many of the people who phoned said "god bless you for existing, we didn't know you were out there," reported Stuart Miller, a CRC activist who fielded many of the phone calls. CRC's 800 number is 1-800-787-KIDS.

Special Financial Child Support Report

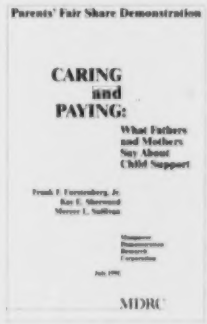
Caring and Paying:

What Fathers and Mothers Say About Child Support. Parents' Fair Share Demonstration: Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, July 1992. Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr., Kay E. Sherwood, and Mercer L. Sullivan.

Reviewed by Anna Keller,
Vice-President of CRC

Among its many provisions, the Family Support Act of 1988 authorized the Parents' Fair Share (PFS) Demonstration, a program designed to boost the income potential of welfare families by increasing the earnings of non-custodial parents and the regularity of their financial child support payments.

Caring and Paying: is a study that grew out of the PFS Demonstration. It attempts to get at factors that may affect the success of the PFS program. By allowing individuals who are part of the national child support crisis to speak fully about their lives, this report by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation provides an honest look behind the cliches, at the social and personal complexity that generates child poverty.



This report acknowledges that many parents, custodial and non-custodial, are ill-equipped for work and face formidable obstacles in the job market. It shows how the government's goals of increasing family incomes for children in poverty, and removing those same families from welfare rolls, are often starkly contradictory. It admits how unresponsive, impersonal and complex our society's child support institutions are.

Finally, this report reveals that individual personal relations play a major role in the problem of non-support. "Child poverty," the introduction reads, "is often enmeshed in unsuccessful relationships between men and women."

The reports of the seventy-some parents interviewed are often moving. The parents' stories may (as was hoped) point up some possibilities for improving child support systems and programs, but they also direct attention to the limits of what a formal child support system can do.

Study Method and Samples

The study consisted of a series of interviews among 71 individuals, both mothers and fathers, clustered into several focus groups drawn from a number of U.S. cities (Baltimore, Grand Rapids, New York City). Several interviewers were involved. Mercer Sullivan and Terry Williams interviewed 42 New York City fathers in four focus groups. Frank Furstenberg interviewed eight young mothers and three of their non-custodial partners in Baltimore. Fred Doolittle and Kay Sherwood interviewed two groups of fathers in Grand Rapids, one group of twelve poor fathers in a job-finding workshop, and one group of four fathers in a "father's rights" (sic) group.

The purpose of this study and its design was to record the perceptions parents (particularly those targeted by the PFS program of job training and counseling) have of the child support enforcement system.

These perceptions, the authors write, "may matter as much to their behavior as the legal foundations of the system or the actual operation of the public agencies charged with carrying out child support laws."

Study Conclusions

Several observations stand out from the interviews that appear to suggest areas most amenable to changes in the child support system. They are:

1. Current child support enforcement agencies are viewed as impersonal and unresponsive to people's real needs.
2. Fathers resented being treated as criminals.
3. Mothers complained about inefficiency.
4. Non-custodial parents viewed support procedures and mechanisms for enforcement as complex, punitive, and as bearing no relation to their children's' well-being.
5. Many parents expressed the sense that mediation and counseling services that lead parents to work together directly were badly needed.
6. Many parents view the contribution of parenting time as of equal or more importance to their children than the contribution of financial support.

The above suggest that some mothers and fathers treat the relationship to their children as a "package deal": if the father-mother relationship is damaged, the father, or mother, may view the "deal" as off: mothers may discourage fathers from parenting, or fathers may withdraw from children as well as from their mothers.

The most striking observation of this study may give some pause to those who throw about cliches about irresponsible parenting and deadbeat dads.

Nearly all fathers expressed a deep feeling for their children. Whether mixed with guilt, pride, shame or longing, these fathers—poor and not poor—collectively give a resounding lie to the cliche of unfeeling and irresponsible fathers. Together these non-custodial fathers have more to tell the legal and administrative world about parenthood than vice-versa. One father said.

> "I think just simple things that you do with your kids, that's being a father...It isn't paying money to a court system that's being a father, it's taking a walk with them, putting them to bed at night, just listening to, 'Hey, what did you

do today, what happened to you?' That's being a father, you know, a parent...put them to bed, share what your feelings are, you share what your thoughts are, what's going on, what is it you'd like to do in the future. You are not only part of their present, you're part of their past and part of their future regardless of what the current scene is, how much money you're paying. You're part of a spiritual nature...we're not just money."

Observations such as this may—and perhaps should—make an even more profound impression on architects of child support policy. Perhaps the most glaring irresponsibility in the child support equation is not that of individual parents "refusing" to support their children, but of a society that provides inadequate nurturance and support for the relationship between parents and their children.

No one, after reading this book, should feel comfortable in drawing the conclusion that a parent's failure to pay child support means they have also failed to feel, or failed to act on, a profound love for their children.

For copies of the 88 page-report, contact the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, Three Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, phone (212) 532-3200.

Study Finds Child Support Data Incomplete

AAMFT Report Reviewed by CRC Staff

Willful non-payment of child support by those who have the ability to pay is only one of many reasons for nonpayment, according to a report issued by the Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), Research and Education Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The 39 page report stated "there is limited data available about the characteristics of absent (non-custodial) parents, so we have very inadequate information about which reasons are most important for which groups of fathers."

These and other findings were presented to a Family seminar December 4, 1992 on Capitol Hill sponsored by the AAMFT on "Reducing Family Poverty: Tax-Based and Child Support Strategies."

Another very important reason for non-payment that is given little attention, the report stated, "is the 'non-cooperation' of a surprisingly large proportion of the custodial parents."

It noted that the Census Bureau has found that as of 1989, about 40% of mothers without awards reported that either they "did not want an award" or "did not pursue an award."

Data Viewed as Faulty

The report also found serious limitations on the widely used Census Bureau child support and paternity data. It noted that all such data comes from custodial mothers, with "no independent verification of this data from the fathers or from court records. Also, there is reason to believe that respondents on census surveys typically underreport income.

"Plans to conduct a national survey on absent parents were aborted by the Reagan Administration, although a pilot study suggested it was a highly feasible undertaking. Moreover, one unique feature of this planned survey was that matched mothers and fathers were interviewed so that their reports could be compared and reconciled."

It includes a discussion of child support assurance, a proposal apparently favored by the Clinton Administration and many members of Congress, at least in experimental form, under which the government would provide a minimum income to a family if the family was entitled to, but did not receive, child support.

Panelists at the seminar where the AAMFT report were discussed were:

* Eugene Steurle, Ph.D., senior fellow, Urban Institute;

* Cheryl Hayes, executive director, National Commission on Children;

* Daniel Meyer, Ph.D., assistant professor, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty; and

* Wendell Primus, staff director, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House Ways and Means Committee.

The moderator was Theodora Ohms, director, Family Impact Seminar, AAMFT. Copies of the AAMFT report are available from AAMFT at 1100 Seventeenth Street N.W., Suite 901, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone 202-467-5114, or may be obtained from CRC. CRC members send $10.00 for photocopying and postage, and $15.00 for non-members.

The report states it may be photocopied for education, teaching and dissemination purposes provided the proper attribution is prominently displayed on the copies.

Monthly Seminars Held

The AAMFT holds monthly seminars entitled "Family Centered Social Policy: The Emerging Agenda." The seminars are funded by the Foundation for Child Development, and co-sponsored by the Consortium of Family Organizations (COFO). COFO members include AAMFT, American Home Economics Association (AHEA), Family Resource Coalition (FRC), Family Service America (FSA), and the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR).

Mothers Say Fathers Unable to Pay

GAO Report Reviewed by CRC Staff

GAO

INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT

Mothers Report Receiving Less Support From Out-Of-State Fathers

A federal government report states that 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the father say it is because the fathers were unable to pay. The 66 percent figure is reported by the custodial mothers regardless of whether the fathers live in the same state or in a different state from the mother.

This data appears in a report prepared by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) for Senator Bill Bradley (D-N.J), and Congresswomen Marge Roukema (R-NJ) and Barbara Kennelly (D-CT). The three members of Congress requested the report because of "a lack of reliable data on interstate child support cases."

The report, dated January 9, 1992, but which has not been widely distributed, also states that:

Where there is no child support award (and therefore, no child support is due from the father, or the father may not know of the existence of the child), the mothers report:

1. In cases where the father lives in the same state as the mother:

A. 53 percent of the mothers report that they did not want support or did not ask for it, that other financial considerations were made in lieu of support, or that she was unable to establish paternity;

B. 17 percent of the mothers report that the father is financially unable to pay (it is presumed that she or the intervening agency decided that the financial position of the father made pursuing an award a futile gesture):

C. 6 percent of the mothers report that a final agreement is pending.

In summary, 76 percent of the mothers who live in the same state as the father and who do not have a child support award report that child support collection is not an issue in their case.

2. In cases where the father lives in another state: these figures are 49 percent, 12 percent and 7 percent, for a total of 68 percent where child support is not an issue.

3. As ridiculous as it may sound, our government is classifying deceased fathers as deadbeats. The deceased, those living in foreign countries and those who have moved back in with the mother are classified as living in "other" locations. None of these categories constitute more than 14 percent of the questionnaires reviewed. So as many as 28 percent of fathers classified as living in "other" locations could be either living with the mother or dead, the GAO report states.

The report is based on Census Bureau data in the child support and alimony supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS). This supplement, says the GAO report, surveys a sample of mothers age 15 and above living with their own children under 21 whose father lives in a different household.

A complete copy of the report may be ordered from the General Accounting Office. Ask for: GAO/HRD-92-39 FS-Mothers Report Receiving...

Announcements

The Academy of Family Mediators (AFM)

"Mediation Comes to the Capitol" is the theme of AFM's annual conference July 19-24, 1993 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. The conference will focus on family mediation, government support for family mediation, children in mediation, and lawyers who mediate. For information, contact AFM at P.O. Box 10501, Eugene, OR 97440, telephone 503-345-1205.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

"The Economic Impact of Divorce" is the theme of AFCC's 30th annual conference in New Orleans May 12-15, 1993. The emotional impact of divorce will also be discussed. Keynote speaker: John Haynes, founder of the Academy of Family Mediators and internationally known mediator. Cost: $225, your guest $100. For information contact AFCC at 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703, telephone 608-251-4001.

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

"Moral Discourse on Families" is the theme of NCFR's 55th annual conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, November 10-15, 1993. In addition to exploring the often polarized domain of ethics and values in family life, the conference will sponsor an international health policy forum. For information, contact NCFR at 3989 Central Ave. NE, Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55421, telephone 612-781-9331.

In Need of Legal Help?

Do you need legal help in a case? Is the case (or will it be) on appeal? Does the case have broad applicability? If the answer to these three questions is yes, contact CRC.

Attorneys for CRC are interested in handling these cases on a reasonable fee basis. Because of limited finances, we can only consider cases which are on appeal.

CRC Chapters

Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR), a nationally prominent grandparents' organization with more than 20 chapters and affiliates throughout the U.S., has affiliated with the Children's Rights Council.

The decision was announced by Ethel Dunn of Madison Wisconsin, the executive director of GUCR, on January 1, 1993.

"We like CRC's direction, and we look forward to a close working relationship," said Dunn.

"GUCR and CRC have worked informally for more than a year," said CRC President David L. Levy. "We are absolutely delighted at this affiliation, for it will strengthen the goals we are all working for."

Ethel Dunn

Dunn is also co-chair of the National Coalition of Grandparents, a newly formed umbrella organization of grandparents working for the rights of children.

Dunn has testified twice before Congressional committees:

* in October, 1991, before the House Human Resources Subcommittee, headed by then-Representtive Tom Downey (D-NY); and

* in July 1992 at the first Senate hearing ever held on grandparents issues, before a committee chaired by Sen. David Pryor (D-AK).

GUCR participated in the first press conference ever held on Capitol Hill by various organizations concerned with "balanced family law legislation." At the press conference, CRC, GUCR, Mothers Without Custody, and the Stepfamily Association of America joined together in urging Congress to pass a balancing amendment to the

(Continued on Page 17)

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
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Jennifer Isham, president

Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR)
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(608) 238-8751
Ethel Dunn

CRC Chapters

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(907) 274-7358
Gary Maxwell, state coordinator

Alaska Family Support Group
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Anchorage, AK 99511-1691
(907) 344-7707
Jim Arnesen, president

Second Wives and Children
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Tracy Driskill, president

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Lou Ann Bassan, state coordinator

Children's Rights Council of California
Sacramento chapter
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Dick Woods, coordinator

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Harvey Walden, coordinator

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George Kelly, coordinator

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Eric Anderson, coordinator and nationwide chapter coordinator

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Vermonters for Strong Families
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Heartland, VT 05048
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Fred Tubbs, coordinator

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Chesapeake, VA 23325
(804) 463-KIDS
Michael Ewing, president
Cindy Lewis, state coordinator

Family Resolution Council
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Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 740-9889
Murray Steinberg, president

Fathers United for Equal Right's and Women's Coalition
P.O. Box 1323
Arlington, VA 22210-1323
(703) 451-8580
Paul Robinson, president

Hyde/Shelby bill. A provision for a national commission on child welfare, including access/visitation, was subsequently added to the bill (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

Levy announced that Dunn has been named to CRC's Advisory Panel.

Jennifer Isham, the president of Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), another national organization affiliated with CRC, is also a member of the Advisory Panel.

State chapter Developments

On the state level, Lou Ann Bassan is the new CRC coordinator in California. Bassan is a San Francisco attorney in workers compensation insurance defense who is married to a non-custodial father of three children. Patricia Gehlen, an elementary school teacher and grandmother, is the chair of the Sacramento, California chapter.

Valerie Ozsu, who had been the CRC coordinator in California, has moved to Colorado, where she is starting a CRC chapter in that state. Ozsu is a registered nurse and certified midwife.

Kathy Clark, L.S.W., program coordinator, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Marion, Ohio, is CRC's new coordinator in Ohio.

Cindy Lewis, former president of Parents and Children's Equality in Indiana, has moved to Virginia, and is CRC's new coordinator in Virginia.

CRC seeks to form a chapters throughout the country, in order to assist the citizens of each state with that state's unique laws. Custody reform is primarily handled on the state level, although Congress is entering the field more and more. Problems cross state lines. What happens in one state or in Congress affects all of us. We must have a strong national organization, with strong state organizations, to have greater effect on public policy.

If you are part of a national network, you will generally get a better reception than a group that is limited to one state or community.

Coordinators of our state chapters maintain contact by mail exchange and cross-country telephone conference calls between the chapters and CRC national. In this way, chapters can benefit from each other and do not have to constantly "re-invent the wheel".

Chapters exist in 23 states.

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, or if you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community, write to CRC for our Affiliation Booklet.

This 37-page booklet explains everything you want to know about affiliation.

After reviewing the booklet, write to Eric Anderson of Texas, CRC chapter coordinator, for further information. Eric's address is listed below.

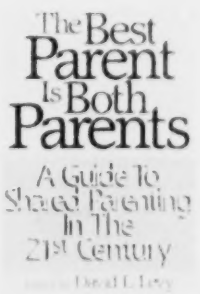
Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

Inside CRC

CRC is having its first book published! The book, entitled "The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century," is scheduled for May, 1993 publication by Hampton Roads Publishing Company in Norfolk, Virginia, a nationally known publisher.

The trade paperback book, ISBN 1-878901-56-7, about 160 pages, is expected to appear in bookstores around the country; but it may be ordered direct from the publisher at the retail price of $9.95 plus shipping and handling. To order copies, telephone Hampton Roads Publishing at 1-800-667-8707.

The book, an update of several CRC reports, contains substantial new information, and has been two years in the making. "We hope to reach a market for CRC's ideas that has to date been untapped," said CRC President David L. Levy, the editor of the book.



Contributors to the book include CRC writers and researchers Anna Keller and Elliott H. Diamond, as well as Elizabeth McGonagle, originator of the "Banana Splits" school-based program.

Please ask your favorite bookstore to carry the book.

Volunteers and Materials Needed

Are you interested in office work, public relations, fund-raising, membership development, tax issues affecting the family, advocacy, research or writing?

If you can donate materials to CRC, such as computers, typewriters, fax machines, or telephones, we can use them at our national office in Washington, D.C. or give them to our chapters around the country. And you can obtain a tax deduction for your contribution.

Inside CRC *(Continued from Page 17)*

Legal, Computer Services Available

Charlie Ruggerio, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He recently joined as a partner the law firm of Ailes, Ohlandt and Greeley, 6 Landmark Square, Stamford, CT. 06901, Suite 604, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Steve Chan, who has helped CRC with its computer system, is knowledgeable in computer technology, and has also served as an expert witness in computer procurement cases on the federal level. Mr. Chan is at Uniprime Systems, Inc., P.O.Box 3247, Baltimore, MD. 21228, phone (410) 747-7510.

If you work for the federal government, and wish to transfer annual leave to a CRC member who works for the federal government, and who is involved full time in seeking joint custody, please contact CRC. The CRC member does not wish his name to be in print.

Mark Goodson Dies

Mark Goodson, who was a TV institution, and the honorary chairman of the Children's Rights Council since late 1991, died on December 18, 1992. He was 77.

Mr. Goodson's radio and television career spanned more than 50 years. He invented such shows as "What's My Line?" "The Price is Right," " Family Feud, "I've Got a Secret" and "The Match Game."

Since 1950 there has never been a week without a Mark Goodson game show on television.

The TV quiz show scandals of the 1950's did not adversely affect Goodson, for he never gave answers to popular contestants, as other shows did, to increase a show's popularity.

For many years, Goodson teamed up with Bill Todman to form the Goodson/Todman partnership. Todman died in 1979.

Goodson was diagnosed with cancer in September, 1992, and underwent treatment. Doctors eventually advised Goodson to stop the treatment because the cancer was not responding. Goodson, who had homes in New York and Los Angeles, died at his Manhattan home at 1 Beekman Place.

"Goodson and CRC were just getting to know each other when he died," said CRC President David L. Levy. "The friendship was altogether too brief."

Goodson leaves three children, and six grandchildren.

Thank You, Contributors!

We wish to thank those who have joined, renewed their membership, contributed to CRC, or ordered materials from CRC from October, 1992 through December, 1992. * Denotes life member of CRC (financial contribution totaling $500 or more).

Jed Abraham
Eddie Adams
Bill Adoba
William Aldrich
Edward Allison
Joan Anderson
David Ault
Asa Baber
Jay Baitz
Edwward Barton
Francis Baumli
Greg Beard
Connie Beaupre
Steve Becker
Tom Bell Wright
William/Rene Bender
Robert Bertrand
Bruce Biagi
Florence Bienenfeld
Kim Boedecker-Frey
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Wade Bowie
Ronald Branca
Sheila Brayman-Borgese
Eva Brown
Sally Brush
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Dana Copland
Barry Craig
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L. Philip Sheldon
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Lewis Sierra
Phyillis Simon
Daniel Skelton
Kenneth Skilling
Albert Smith
* Donald Smith
Peter Sokaris
Gerald Solomon
Don and Melissa Spittle
Nancy Statum
John Steimke
Charles and Donna Stewart
Greg Stidham
William Strange
R. Kirk Suttell
James Taylor
James Tays
Eugene Veto
Emily Visher
Jerold Weiner
Jerome Weinstein
Noel Weller
Bruce Wenzel
Dennis Wheeler
Brent Whiting
Johnny Wilson
Mark Wright
Martie Wrock

Here are *Some SPECIAL ADDITIONS* to the

Children's Rights Council

1992 CATALOG OF RESOURCES

for parents and professionals

The CRC catalog lists more than sixty books, written reports, audio-cassettes, model bills, and gifts for children. Members can receive additional free copies of the catalog by contacting CRC. Non-members can order one for $1.00. Write: CRC, 220 I Str., NE, Suite 230, Washington, D.C. 20002-4362.

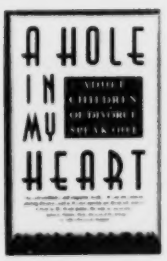
Regular Discount* CRC Members - 10% ea. book
- 20% other items

Send all book orders to: CRC Books, P.O. Box 5568 Friendship Station, Wash., DC 20016. Add $2 for 1st book, 50¢ each additional book for shipping and handling.

*** RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 5% DISCOUNT ON THE FOLLOWING 1992 CATALOG OF RESOURCES ITEMS:**

Some Special Additions and Some Books Currently Listed:

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. The PAS occurs when one parent denigrates the other parent, and gets the child to join in the denigration. Gardner, a national expert on the PAS, describes the disorder and recommends treatment. 1992 publishing of this material as a separate book for the first time. **BKA-803 — 348 pg. HB $30.00.**



A Hole In My Heart: Adult Children of Divorce Speak Out, by Claire Berman. Enables people to understand they are not alone, and helps spouses and loved ones better understand their mates. **BKM-505 -- 280 pg. SB $8.00.**

Surviving The Breakup, by Joan Berlin Kelly, Ph.D. and Judith S. Wallerstein, Ph.D. A longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on children. **BKP-210 -- 340 pg. SB $14.00.**

For The Sake Of The Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, Ph.D. Insights and advice on how parents can cooperate after divorce. **BKP-211 — 220 pg. HB $17.95.**

True And False Allegations Of Child Sexual Abuse, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. Child sexual abuse cases are burgeoning. Gardner provides analysis, evaluated criteria and recommendations necessary to better differentiate between true and false allegations. His proposals could result in better resolution of cases. **BKA-807 - 748 pg. HB $45.00.**

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Divorce Book For Parents, by Vicki Lansky. **BKP-203 — 254 pg. HB $18.95.**

The Handbook Of Divorce Mediation, by Lenard Marlow, J.D. and S. Richard Sauber, Ph.D. **BKE-604 — 506 pg. HB $65.00.**

The Custody Revolution - The Father Factor And The Motherhood Mystique, by Richard A. Warshak, Ph.D. **BKE-607 - 272 pg. HB $21.00.**

Fathers Rights - The Sourcebook For Dealing With The Child Support System, by Jon Conine. **BKF-406 — 220 pg. HB $17.95.**

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D. **BKP-202 -- 270 pg. SB $8.95.**

Long Distance Parenting, by Miriam Galper Cohen. **BKP-213 — 193 pg. HB $17.95.**

Parent vs. Parent, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D. **BKP-209 — 240 pg. HB $20.95.**

Don't Blame Me, Daddy, by Dean Tong. **BKA-806 — 215 pg. HB $11.95.**

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IN THIS ISSUE:

About CRC.....2
Bills & Resolutions in Congress.....5
Letters to the Editor.....6
Funding Pursued for Commission.....7
Inside CRC.....8
Important Talking Points for Children's Advocates.....9
Announcements.....10
Hillary Clinton on Children.....11
In Congress.....13
Directory of Organizations.....14
CRC Chapters.....15
Media Contacts.....16
Court Cases.....17

News of CRC's 7th National Conference will appear in the next issue.

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Liberal Barbara Dafoe Whitehead says

Dan Quayle Was Right

That headline—Dan Quayle was right—on the cover of one of America's most prestigious liberal publications has attracted considerable interest in the news media, academia, and among child advocates.

The article, by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, in Atlantic Monthly's April, 1993 issue, said that the dissolution of intact two-parent families is harmful to large numbers of children.

Commentators have said this before, but the message, coming as it does this time from a leading liberal magazine agreeing in print with a conservative (Dan Quayle) who was embroiled in a family issues debate last Fall, is apparently the reason for the widespread interest in the article.

CRC gave Whitehead, a researcher at the Institute for American Values in New York, a "Best in Media" award for the article at our conference April 28-May 2, 1993. More conference news will appear in our Summer, 1993 "Speak Out for Children".

Nicholas Zill, of WESTAT, Inc., Rockville, Maryland, whose research is quoted extensively in Whitehead's article, was a speaker at CRC's Seventh National Conference. News on Zill's comments at the conference will also appear in the Summer, 1993 "Speak Out for Children."

The Atlantic Monthly article said that "The social science evidence is in: though it may benefit the adults involved, the dissolution of intact two-parent families is harmful to large numbers of children. Moreover, family diversity in the form of increasing numbers of single-parent and stepparent families does not strengthen the social fabric but, rather, dramatically weakens and undermines society."

Key Points of the Article

"Most American children will spend several years in a single-mother family. Some will eventually live in stepparent families, but because stepfamilies are more likely to break up than intact (by which I mean two-biological parent) families, an increasing number of children will experience family breakup two or even three times during childhood."

"According to a growing body of social-science evidence, children in families disrupted by divorce and out-of-wedlock birth do worse than children in intact families in several measures of well-being. Children in single parent families are six times as likely to be poor. They are also likely to stay poor longer. Twenty-two percent of children in one-parent families will experience poverty during childhood for seven years or more, as compared with only two percent of children in two parent families.

Barbara Whitehead

"A 1988 survey by the National Center for Health Statistics conducted by Nicholas Zill found that children in single-parent families are two to three times as likely as children in

(Continued on Page 3)

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC), also known as the National Council for Children's Rights, is a non-profit [IRS 501(c)3] organization, based in Washington, DC. We are concerned with the healthy development of children of divorced and separated parents. For the child's benefit, we seek means of reducing divorce by strengthening families through divorce and custody reform, minimizing hostilities between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial approach, assuring a child's access to both parents, and providing equitable child support.

CRC was founded in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog, and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, or call (202) 547-6227 or 1-800-787-KIDS. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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Whitehead

Continued form page 1

two-parent families to have emotional and behavioral problems. They are also more likely to drop out of high school, to get pregnant as teenagers, to abuse drugs, and to be in trouble with the law. Compared with children in intact families, children from disrupted families are at a much higher risk for physical or sexual abuse.

"Despite this growing body of evidence, it is nearly impossible to discuss changes in family structure without provoking angry protest. Many people see the discussion as no more than an attack on struggling single mothers and their children.

"Such views are not to be dismissed. Indeed, they help to explain why family structure is such an explosive issue for Americans...How can we square traditional notions of public support for dependent women and children with a belief in women's right to pursue autonomy and independence in childbearing and childrearing? How do we uphold the freedom of adults to pursue individual happiness in their private relationships and at the same time respond to the needs of children for stability, security, and permanence in their family lives?

Sen. Moynihan

"In the mid-1960's Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then an assistant secretary of labor, was denounced as a racist for calling attention to the relationships between the prevalence of black single-mother families and the lower socioeconomic standing of black children...Last year, Vice President Dan Quayle was ridiculed for criticizing Murphy Brown. In short, every time the issue of family structure has been raised, the response has been first controversy, then retreat, and finally silence.

"Yet it is also risky to ignore the issue of changing family structure. In recent years the problems associated with family disruption have grown. Overall child well-being has declined...the proportion of children in poverty has increased dramatically, from 15 percent in 1970 to 20 percent in 1990, while the percentage of adult Americans in poverty has remained roughly constant. The teen suicide rate has more than tripled. Juvenile crime has increased and has become more violent. School performance has continued to decline.

There are no signs that these trends are about to reverse themselves. If we fail to come to terms with the relationship between family structure and declining child well-being, then it will be increasingly difficult to improve children's life prospects, no matter how many new programs the federal government funds. Nor will we be able to make progress in bettering school performance or reducing crime or improving the quality of the nation's future work force—all domestic problems closely connected to family breakup. Worse, we may contribute to the problem by pursuing policies that actually increase family instability and breakup."

Historical View of Family Disruption

The article mentioned that family disruption has historically been regarded as an event that threatens a child's well being and even survival. The death of a parent, for example, has traditionally been regarded as untimely and tragic, producing an outpouring of support from family, friends, and strangers alike.

It has taken thousands of years to reduce the threat of parental death. Other forms of family disruption, separation, divorce, out-of-wedlock birth, were held in check by powerful religious, social and legal sanctions. Divorce was widely regarded as a deviant behavior, especially threatening to mothers and children, and as a personal lapse. In the 1960's the divorce rate soared (after the advent of no-fault divorce, which the article implies, but does not specifically mention).

"All told, about three quarters of children born to cohabiting couples will live in a single-parent home at least briefly. One of every four children growing up in the 1990's will eventually enter a stepfamily. According to one survey, nearly half of all children in stepparent families will see their parents divorce again by the time they reach their late teens.

"What had once been regarded as hostile to children's best interests was now considered starting in the 1970's as essential to adults' happiness. In the 1950's, most Americans believed that parents should stay in an unhappy marriage for the sake of the children. By the mid-1970s, a majority of Americans rejected this view. Once the social metric shifts from child well-being to adult well-being, it is hard to see divorce and nonmarital birth in anything but a positive light."

Hollywood Glorifies Divorce

Hollywood and the media, and even the greeting card industry affirms the liberating effects of divorce,said the article. "Think of your former marriage as a record album," said one Hallmark card. "It was full of music-both happy and sad. But what's important now is...YOU! the recently released HOT, NEW, SINGLE! You're going to be at the TOP OF THE CHARTS!"

As for Murphy Brown, the article said, "faced with an accidental pregnancy and a faithless lover, she agonized over her plight and, after much mental anguish, bravely decided to go ahead. In short, having a baby without a husband represented a higher level of maternal devotion and sacrifice than having a baby with a husband. Murphy was not just exercising her rights as a woman, she was exhibiting true moral heroism.

"Increasingly, the media depicts the married two-parent family as a

source of pathology.

"No one would claim that two-parent families are free from conflict, violence, or abuse. However, the attempt to discredit the two-parent family can be understood as part of what Senator Moynihan has described as a larger effort to accommodate higher levels of social deviance...One response has been to normalize what were once considered deviations, such as out-of-wedlock birth."

The article noted that "The father-child bond is severely, open irreparably, damaged in disrupted families...Often, more than the father's support check is missing. Increasingly, children are bereft of any contact with their fathers...the need to schedule a special time to be with the child, the repeated leave takings, and the lack of connection to the child's regular, daily schedule leaves many fathers, adrift, frustrated, and confused."

Researcher Judith Wallerstein, the article notes, has called the visiting father a parent without portfolio.

"Since most children live with their mothers after divorce, one might expect that the mother-child bond would remain unaltered and might even be strengthened. Yet research shows that the mother-child bond is also weakened as the result of divorce. The article noted that researcher Nicholas Zill and his colleagues initially thought that stepparent families would make up for the shortcomings of the single-parent family. "..But their findings indicate that even when remarriage brings more income and a second adult in the household, other difficulties arises—stepfamilies disrupt established loyalties, create new uncertainties, provoke deep anxieties, and sometimes threaten a child's physical safety as well as emotional security."

Nicholas Zill

The National Commission on Children, a bipartisan group headed by Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), reported that children from stepfamilies were more likely to say they often felt lonely or blue than children from either single-parent of intact families.

"...not all two-parent families are better for children than all single-parent families. But in the face of the evidence it becomes increasingly difficult to sustain the proposition that all family structures produce equally good outcomes for children."

Whitehead says the caution that researchers and writers have in saying this, including Judith Wallerstein, are partly attributed to ideological pressures. Some researchers fear they will be attacked by feminist colleagues, others that their material will be used by groups they don't support, or that their comments will be regarded as an effort to turn back the clock to the 1950's-"a goal that has almost no constituency in the academy."

Children who live with single parents or stepparents also receive less parental encouragement and attention with respect to educational activities than do children who live with both biological parents, the researchers state.

Parenting and Child Support

In certain comments in the article, and in an accompanying shorter article, Whitehead seemed to indicate that tougher child support measures could help children who are abandoned by their fathers.

In a CRC conversation with Whitehead following publication of the article, we made the point that the current emphasis on child support unconnected to parenting is more of the single-parent policy that Whitehead finds so disastrous to children.

If the Census Bureau is correct that divorced parents with joint custody and access (visitation) pay far more in support than parents without joint custody or visitation, CRC pointed out, this could point the way not only to greater parental involvement, but more support compliance, as well.

Whitehead said that other people have talked to her about the need to encourage a two-parent policy if divorce occurs, and she will incorporate such views into any future writings she does on the subject.

Children Without Two Parents Less Likely to Graduate

Children who live apart from one or both parents during childhood or adolescence are less likely to graduate from high school than those who live with both natural parents, according to research reported by the Institute for Research on Poverty.

Estimates of the researchers suggest that living in a nontraditional family increases the risk of dropping out of high school by about 7 percentage points, raising the likelihood from 13 percent to 20 percent for the average individual.

Although the effect is common to all racial groups, it is stronger among whites, say the researchers. The lower attainment of children who live with single parents is generally attributed to differences in the quantity and quality of family and community resources.

(Sources: Gary D. Sandefur, Sara McLanahan, and Roger A. Wojtkiewicz, "Race and Ethnicity, Family Structure, and High School Graduation," Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Discussion Paper No. 893-89; Nan Marie Astone and Sara S. McLanahan, "Family Structure and High School Completion: The Role of Parental Practices," IRP Discussion Paper No. 905-89, as reported in Insights, April 1990 issue, News of public interest from the Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1180 Observatory Drive, 3412 Social Science Building, Madison, WI 53706, telephone 608-262-6358.

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or person to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives; S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or to express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views. The capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the offices of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). Although this is a 24-hour switchboard, and can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress, and even sometimes names of staff night and day, the switchboard can only connect with you with an office during normal business hours. You may also wish to contact the Congress members' branch office in your district for information.

S.6., to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence, to assist state and local authorities to assist and protect victims of such crimes. S.6 includes sections to prevent noncompliance of financial child support obligations in interstate cases, and would express the sense of Congress that spouse abusers not attain joint custody of children, and to establish a national task force on violence against women. Introduced by Sen. Bob Dole (R-KS), referred to Committee on the Judiciary, (202) 224-5225.

The "sense of Congress" about joint custody in S.6 also appears in S. 8 and H.R. 688 (below). Congress passed a similar resolution several years ago sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD). CRC's position is that if Congress is going to enter the custody area, traditionally reserved for the states, it should recommend joint custody (shared parenting) as a first option for fit parents, especially as the Census Bureau reports that parents with joint custody and visitation pay far more in financial support than parents without joint custody and visitation. Congress is expected to consider strong financial support legislation this year, and so statistics on who pays and why is important for Congress to factor into its deliberations.

S.8. to control and prevent crime. Similar to S.6 above. Section 2262(2) of the bills says "joint custody forced upon hostile parents can create a damaging psychological environment for a child," while Section 2262(5) says "It is the sense of the Congress that, for the purpose of determining child custody, evidence establishing that a parent engages in physical abuse of a spouse should create a statutory presumption that it is detrimental to the child to be placed in the custody of the abusive spouse." The bill would create a National Task Force on Violence Against Women. Introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), referred to Judiciary Committee, (202) 224-5225.

H.R. 688, similar to S. 6 and S. 8 (above). Introduced by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), referred to the subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice (202) 226-2406 of House Judiciary Committee.

S. 254, to ensure that any peace dividend is invested in America's families and deficit reduction. Sec. 606A states "The Secretary of the Treasury shall increase the personal exemption for individuals as determined under section 151 of the IRS code of 1986..." Introduced by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), referred to Committee on Budget (202) 224-0642 and Committee on Governmental Affairs (202) 224-4751.

H.R. 773, the "Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act of 1993" would amend the IRS code and the Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to state enforcement of financial child support and to require the IRS to collect support through wage withholding. Introduced by Rep. Hyde (R-IL), referred to subcommittee on Human Resources (202) 225-1025 of the House Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 741, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to provide welfare families with the education, training, job search, and work experience to prepare them to leave welfare within two years, to authorize states to conduct demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of policies designed to help people leave welfare and increase their financial security. Introduced by Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), referred jointly to Committees on Ways and Means, Agriculture, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, Banking Finance and Urban Affairs, Judiciary. For information, contact subcommittee on Human Resources, (202) 225-3951.

H.R. 619, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to assure the completeness and accuracy of consumer information maintained by credit reporting agencies. Included in credit reporting agencies are state and local financial child support enforcement agencies. Introduced by Rep. McCandless (R-CA), referred to subcommittee on Consumer Credit Service of Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (202) 225-8872. Hearings are scheduled to begin in May.

H.R. 522, to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline. Sec 2(2) states that the hotline shall provide "victims of domestic violence needed access to resources which will refer such victims and their children to safe homes and shelters." Introduced by Rep.

Congressman Hall

Constance Morella (R-MD), and referred to Committee on Education and Labor (202) 225-4527.

H.R. 455, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove the barriers and disincentives in the program of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) that prevent recipients of such aid from moving toward self-sufficiency. Introduced by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.

H.R. 454, to provide that a state court may not modify an order of another state court requiring the payment of financial child support unless the recipient of the child support payments resides in the state in which the modification is sought, or consents to seeking the modification in such other state court. Sec. 2(b) states "it is necessary to establish national standards under which the courts of different states will determine their jurisdiction to issue a child support order and the effect to be given by each state to the support orders issued by the courts of the other states." Introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), referred to subcommittee on Administrative Law of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-5741.

H.R. 435, to amend the IRS Code to provide income tax relief for families. Sec. 30A(a) states, "In the case of an eligible individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter and chapter 21 for the taxable year an amount equal to $600 multiplied by the number of qualifying children of the taxpayer who have not attained the age of 19..." Introduced by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

This letter is long overdue. Last year, in March 1992, I received a "Best in Media" award from the CRC for an article entitled "Not Mothers' Rights or Fathers Rights'...but Family Rights" that appeared in the American Bar Association's Family Advocate magazine.

As I drove along the Pennsylvania turnpike on my way to Washington to receive the award, I wondered what to expect. I had never attended a CRC conference or function. I knew of the organization through printed material only. I wondered about the personality of the group, the quality of the workshops, the way in which printed material would transfer to meeting actual people. I was prepared for any scenario.

From the moment I walked into the first reception at the CRC conference, I was warmly greeted and received. I found out that my words had travelled from person to person: sometimes used in a lawyer's office, sometimes sent to an ex-spouse who wouldn't budge on a sole custody stance, sometimes used as solace to get through a tough time. What I thought was my own personal catharsis involving the agony and triumph of a custody situation turned into an article that travelled throughout the country on its own, proving to me that my emotions, thoughts, trials and tribulations were felt on a universal basis.

Following the warmth of that opening night were workshops, seminars, speakers and fellowship that introduced me to the commitment and caring of the CRC, an organization that is putting its heart and mind and soul into improving the lives of families in this country today.

An award from such a respected organization is a "boon" to a writer's career and credentials, and I am late in expressing my thanks to the CRC in honoring my work. Mention of the award and its appearance on my resume have been very helpful as I continue to write and research in the area of family rights and the workplace.

But more importantly, in addition to giving me "outward" recognition, the CRC's "Best in Media" award has given me, through the commitment of its members, the courage and the grounds to keep writing and speaking out for a common cause—family rights.

Thanks, CRC. You let me know that words from the privacy of the soul can have an effect in the lives of our children.

— Kathryn Gibson,
Pittsburgh, PA.

Ed's note: The article that won a CRC "Best in Media" award in 1992 told how Ms. Gibson could have gone for sole custody and won, but decided it would be in her daughter's and son's best interests to have joint custody (shared parenting) of the children's two parents.

* * * *

CRC's Eighth National Conference will take place in April, 1994 in Washington DC. The exact date will be announced later.

The features "Around the Country" and "Chapter News" do not appear in this issue. They will resume with our next issue, the Summer 1993 "Speak Out for Children."

Funding Pursued for Commission

Efforts are continuing to be made to obtain $2 million in Congressional funding for the national Commission on Child and Family Welfare, which would have a special emphasis on child access (visitation).

The commission is part of Public Law 102-521 (the Hyde/Shelby bill), passed unanimously by Congress in October, 1992.

The law, also known as 18 U.S. Code 228, makes it a federal crime to flee across state lines to "willfully" avoid payment of financial child support.

Under Congress's two-step process, the authorization for the commission must now await Congressional funding.

Members of the commission would not be appointed until after the funding is approved.

Previously, CRC and its supporters requested that members of Congress ask Donna Shalala, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which would administer the Commission, to include a recommendation for $2 million for the Commission in the President's budget.

The President's budget would have to be approved by Congress.

Under budget procedures, a recommendation by the President for funding for the Commission would make it easier for funding to sail through Congress, although Congress has authority to initiate a proposal for the funding on its own.

CRC appreciates the fact that the following members of Congress wrote to Secretary Shalala, urging the recommended $2 million funding:

* Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI), who convinced Congress to authorize the Commission as part of the Hyde/Shelby bill;

* Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD), fourth ranking Democrat in the House;

* Walter R. Tucker (D-CA), whose staffer, Kim Shearin, was Senator Kohl's key staffer handling the authorization for the Commission, before she accepted a position with Rep. Tucker in early 1993;

* Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), an advisor to CRC.

It is not yet known whether the funding will be recommended by President Clinton, or approved by Congress.

Supporters of CRC are urged to write to their Senators and Representatives as soon as possible, urging that Congress provide the $2 million funding for the commission.

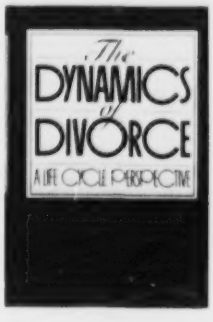
If funded, the Commission would consist of 15 commissioners, who would be named according to a procedure set forth in the bill's authorization (for further information, see "Speak Out for Children," Fall, 1992 and Winter 1992-1993 issues)..

Child Support Provisions

The new law, 18 U.S. Code 228, makes clear that a person must "willfully" fail to pay child support and be more than one year and more than $5,000 in arrearages, to be guilty of a criminal offense. The first conviction would result in a fine and six months imprisonment or both, and subsequent convictions could result in a fine and up to 2 years in prison. The court would also be ordered to require payment of the outstanding child support obligation.

The first known case brought under 18 U.S. Code 228 has been dismissed by a U.S. District Court in Alabama, because it was brought as a civil suit on behalf of a custodial mother in Alabama against a custodial father in Illinois. CRC of Virginia, Richmond chapter, was asked to file an amicus curaie ("friend of the court") brief by Donna Robbins, the sister of the father in the case, Danny Dickens. The brief was written by Murray Steinberg and Stuart Miller of the CRC Chapter in Richmond. The receipt of the CRC brief prompted District Court Judge William Acker of Alabama, who was presiding over the case, to order the U.S. Justice Department to submit a brief on behalf of the U.S. Government. The Justice Department did so, agreeing with CRC that 18 U.S. Code is criminal, not civil, and must be filed by a U.S. attorney, not a private attorney. The case was then dismissed. For further information contact CRC of Virginia, Richmond chapter, at (804) 740-9889, or see "Speak Out for Children", Winter 1992/93.

These are three of the many books available to you.
For information,write to
CRC Books, P.O. Box 5568,
Friendship Station, Washington, D.C. 20016
Non-members, enclose $1.00 for catalog.
Membership in CRC is $35.00



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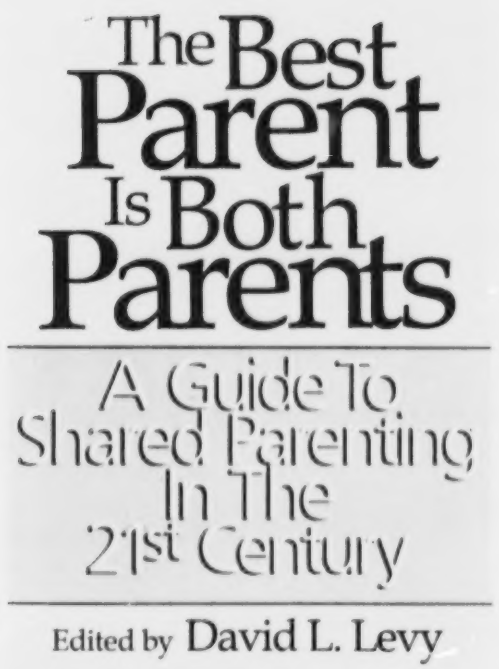

CRC's first book, "The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century," has been published!

Copies of the book were available at CRC's Seventh National Conference held on April 28-May 2, 1993. (More news about the conference will appear in the Summer, 1993 issue of "Speak Out for Children.")

The publisher of the book is Hampton Roads Publishing Company in Norfolk, Virginia, a nationally known publisher.

The trade paperback book, ISBN 1-878901-56-7, about 160 pages, is now available in bookstores.

Although you could order a copy of the book from CRC or from the publisher, we prefer that you order a copy from your local bookstore. The advantages of ordering from your bookstore are:

* the price of the book is the same ($9.95), but you will save shipping charges;

* ordering from a bookstore alerts the bookstore to the fact that there is interest in this book. The bookstore will almost surely not bother to order just one copy for you, but will order 5 or 10 copies or more.

* having those extra copies on the bookshelves will attract other potential book buyers who are browsing in the stores.

CRC is not interested so much in royalties from the book (although they are welcome) as in getting our—and your ideas—out to a wider audience.

Even if people don't buy the book, many of them will see the title "The Best Parent is Both Parents" on the bookshelves, and, we hope, be affected positively by those words.

The CRC book, an update of several CRC reports, contains substantial new information, and has been two years in the making. "We hope to reach a market for CRC's ideas that has to date been untapped," said CRC President David L. Levy, the editor of the book.

Contributors to the book include CRC writers and researchers Anna Keller and Elliott H. Diamond, as well as Elizabeth McGonagle, originator of the "Banana Splits" school-based program in upstate New York. Please telephone bookstores and ask them to carry the CRC book. Thank you.

Activities of Members Leave Donations Needed

A member of CRC who is involved in a case of possibly far-reaching national importance for issues of interest to CRC members, has also qualified for the federal leave transfer program. Donations of leave from CRC members, their friends or family members who are employees of the federal government would be greatly appreciated. Please phone or write CRC for a copy of form you can fill out and submit to your government agency.

Psychologist Available for Expert Testimony

Dr. Israel Lichtenstein, Ed.D., licensed clinical psychologist, researcher and CRC member, has published materials on joint custody, and has appeared in many court cases as an expert witness on joint custody. He helped write the Ohio joint custody bill (Senate Bill 3) that allowed judges to award joint custody over the objections of a parent. He may be reached at Marriage and Divorce Counseling Center, 2100 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219, phone (513) 651-9994.

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He recently joined as a partner the law firm of Ailes, Ohlandt and Greeley, 6 Landmark Square, Suite 604, Stamford, CT. 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Computer Technlogy Services

Steve Chan, who has helped CRC with its computer system, is knowledgeable in computer technology, and has also served as an expert witness in computer procurement cases on the federal level. Mr. Chan is at Uniprime Systems, Inc., P.O.Box 3247, Baltimore, MD. 21228, phone (410) 747-7510.

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Important Talking points for Children's Advocates

Facts Affecting Children

CRC favors greater efforts at family formation and family preservation, but if families break up (or are never formed), CRC works to assure a child the two parents and extended family the child would normally have had during the marriage.

Advocates for stronger families often need facts at their fingertips, to help convince policymakers, judges, newspaper editors and others of the seriousness of the situation affecting children today—and the best ways to help children.

Facts such as these can be important when you write a letter to the editor or to elected public officials, testify before a committee or commission, or network with other organizations.

We are starting this new column, called "Facts Affecting Children," which will periodically provide results from research for quick and easy reference.

Always cite the source of your facts. Even if the hearer does not check the citation, the fact that you cited a source lends credibility to what you say.

Please credit the source of the research, and add: "As cited in 'Speak Out for Children,' Spring, 1993 issue, published by the Children's Rights Council, Washington, D.C.

Children of Single-Parent Households

Psychological and Emotional Effects

Psychiatric Disorders

A Finnish study of more than 12,000 children showed that children from single parent homes were at significantly greater risk from most psychiatric disorders than children from intact homes. Boys were 3 times more likely to be disturbed, girls 4 times more likely.

The study also supports previous findings of other international studies - when illegitimate children are compared to children of divorce, the illegitimate children are worse off mentally and physically than the children of divorce.

(Source: Irma Moilanen and Paula Rantakallio, "The Single Parent Family and the Child's Mental Health." Social Science Medicine-1988: pages 181-186).

Children of Divorce, Ten Years Later

The ten year follow-up of the famous Wallerstein and Kelly study of 16 girls and 22 boys, most between 6 and 8 years old at the time of divorce, finds negative feelings regarding parents' divorce a decade later.

One half of the boys, and one quarter of the girls were judged to be "poorly adjusted and at high risk."

(Source: Judith S. Wallerstein, "Children of Divorce: Report of a Ten-Year Follow-up of Early Latency-Age Children." American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 57, No. 2 (April 1987), pp. 199-211.

The Long-Term Effects of Divorce on Children

University of Nebraska-Lincoln sociologists Paul R. Amato and Bruce Keith analyzed findings of 37 studies of more than 81,000 individuals ,and discovered a pattern that suggests parental divorce (or permanent separation) has broad negative consequences for quality of life in adulthood, including more depression, low life satisfaction, low marital quality, low educational attainment, low income, low occupational prestige, more health problems and more intergenerational transmission of divorce.

(Source: Paul R. Amato and Bruce Keith, "Parental Divorce and Adult Well-Being: A Meta-analysis", Journal of Marriage and the Family 53, 1991, 43-58).

Psychiatric Involvement

Researchers Nicholas Zill and Carolyn C. Rogers noted the increase in teen psychotherapy, especially those from single-parent and stepfamilies:

1. In the late 1960's - 6 % of adolescents (ages 12-16) received help. However, in 1981 - 9 % of the same age group received help;

2. In mother-only families, in the late 1960's - 9% received help, and in 1981, 15% received help.

3. In mother/stepfather families, in the late 1960's, 7% received help, but in 1981, the figure was 14%.

(Source: Nicholas Zill and Carolyn C. Rogers, "Recent Trends in the Well-Being of Children in the United States and Their Implications on Public Policy," appearing in The Changing American Family and Public Policy, ed. Andrew J. Cherlin (Washington: Urban Institute, 1988) pp. 90-91.

Crime

Delinquents and Single Parent Homes

The U.S. Dept. of Justice survey on young people in state-operated juvenile institutions found that 90% were males, 40% were held for violent offenses, 70% did not live with both parents while growing up, and 54% lived primarily in single-parent families.

(Source: Allen J. Beck and Susan A. Kline, "Survey of Youth in Custody, 1987", U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report (September 1988), pp. 1-2).

Family Background of Rapists

A study of 108 violent rapists, all repeat offenders, found that among the four types of rapists, the following came from single parent homes: 60% of the "sadistics" (more aggressive and more deviant sexual activity), 69% of "exploitatives" (most antisocial behavior in adolescence and adulthood), 80% of those motivated by "displaced anger", and 40% of the "compensatories" (least violent rapists). Over-all, men raised in single-parent homes were over-represented as rapists in this study.

High rates of foster care, neglect, and sexual deviation in the rapists' families were also characteristic of the individuals in this sample.

(Source: Raymond A. Knight and Robert A. Prentky, "The Development of Antecedents and Adult Adaptations of Rapist Subtypes", Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol. 14, December, 1987: 403-426.

Education

Academic Difficulties

Studies at Princeton and Johns Hopkins University on the relationship between family structure and academic achievement.

Growing up in a single-parent or stepparent family has negative consequences for grade-point average, attendance, student's college expectations and educational attainment.

Children from non-intact families report lower educational expectations on the part of their parents, less monitoring of school work by mothers and fathers, and less over-all supervision of social activities than children from intact families.

The study concluded that "strength of attachment between parent and child may be important type of social capital essential to success in school."

(Source: Nan Marie Astore and Sara S. McLanahan, "Family Structure, Parental Practices and High School Completion", American Sociological Review 56 (1991): 309-320.

Divorce and Failure

A University of Georgia study of 58 adolescents, ages 12 to 14 (30 from intact families and 28 from parents who went through divorce within the past year). Those from divorced families had greater difficulties, both academically and socially, than their intact family counterparts.

(Source: Rex Forehand, Kenneth Middleton, and Nicholas Long, "Adolescent Functioning as a Consequence of Recent Parental Divorce and the Parent-Adolescent Relationship", Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology 8 (1987): 305-315.

Suicide

Absent or Unavailable Fathers and Suicidal Daughters

This in-depth analysis of eight women suicides found strong influences were exerted by mothers coupled with a lack of involvement of the fathers or early loss of the fathers.

Source: Lynda W. Warren and C. Tomlinson-Keasy, "The Context of Suicide", American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 57, No. 1, January, 1987, p. 41-48.

Teen Sex

Teen Sex in the Single-Parent Home

University of North Carolina and Planned Parenthood study of more than 1,100 junior high students found that;

Daughters in mother-only homes were much more likely to engage in premarital sex than daughters in two-parent homes

(Source: Susan Newcomer and J. Richard Udry, "Parental Marital Status Effects on Adolescent Sexual Behavior". Journal of Marriage and the Family, 49, No. 2 (May 1987), pp. 235-240.

Other Problems

The Troubled Children of Divorce

This study of 170 children (from ages 6 to 17) with divorced parents (average of 1-1/2 years since the divorce) found that:

1/4 blamed themselves for their parents' divorce and suffered low-self esteem;

1/4 harbored illusory hopes that "once my parents realize how much I want them to, they'll live together again";

1/2 blamed fathers for conflict in the family;

54% said they regard their parents' divorce as a source of potential embarrassment.

(Source: Berthold Berg and Lawrence A. Kurdek, "Children's Beliefs About Parental Divorce Scale: Psychometric Characteristics and Concurrent Validity" Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 55 (October 1987) pp. 712-718.

Announcements

National Congress for Men and Children

The National Congress for Men and Children (NCMC) will hold its annual conference on October 14-17, 1993 at the Civic Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. A talk will be given by Dr. Stanley Clawar, co-author of "Children Held Hostage," a book recommended by the American Bar Association on parental brainwashing of children. Other speakers include Dr. Ralph Underwager and Judge James Beasely. The cost for the convention is $150 if paid by July 1, 1993—phone (913) 432-3875. The hotel is at (913) 342-6919.

Mothers Without Custody

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), a national organization with chapters in more than 20 states representing 2,000,000 noncustodial mothers, will hold its 12th annual conference October 1-3, 1993 at the Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn, just north of Chicago, IL. The theme of the conference is "Creating Solutions for Loving and Living." Speakers will include Geoffrey Grief, author of the book entitled "Mothers Without Custody". The cost is $85.00, including lunch and two receptions. For information, contact Mary McDonald (703) 257-7641.

National Council on Family Relations

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), a multidisciplinary family organization with 4,000 members, will hold its 55th annual conference November 10-15, 1993 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference theme is "Moral Discourse on Families." Speakers will include Andre Billingsley, Gene Bethke Eishtain, and Susan Moller Okin. The cost is $120.00 for members, and $190.00 for non-members. Membership costs $195 including the conference. For information, contact NCFR at (612) 781-9331, and ask for Cindy Winter.

The Published Views of Hillary Rodham Clinton on Children

The writings and policy positions of Hillary Rodham Clinton, the wife of President Clinton, are of importance because of her role in the Clinton Administration, and her long involvement in children's issues. To acquaint our readers with the context in which she made known her views, we here reproduce with permission excerpts from several legal articles she wrote, as originally reproduced in the Washington Post, August 24, 1992. CRC would like to point out that Mrs. Clinton's legal arguments could be used either to enhance the two-parent family or to weaken the two-parent family, possibly at the discretion of the child.

From "Children Under the Law"

The phrase "children's rights" is a slogan in search of definition. Invoked to support such disparate causes as world peace, constitutional guarantees for delinquents, affection for infants, and lowering the voting age, it does not yet reflect any coherent doctrine regarding the status of children as political beings.

Asserting that children are entitled to rights and enumerating their needs does not clarify the difficult issues surrounding children's legal status. These issues of family autonomy and privacy, state responsibility, and children's independence are complex, but they determine how children are treated by the nation's legislatures, courts and administrative agencies.

This paper briefly sets out the legal conception of children's status underlying American public policy and case law, and suggests various ways in which this conception needs major revision. There are important new themes emerging in the interpretation of children's status under the law, and several new directions which future litigation and legislation in the interest of children might take. Of particular interest is the trend toward recognizing children's need and interests as rights under the law...

Claims of Right

The basic rationale for depriving people of rights in a dependency relationship is that certain individuals are incapable or undeserving of the right to take care of themselves and consequently need social institutions specifically designed to safeguard their position.

It is presumed that under the circumstances society is doing what is best for the individuals. Along with the family, past and present examples of such arrangements include marriage, slavery, and the Indian reservation system. The relative powerlessness of children makes them uniquely vulnerable to this rationale. Except for the institutionalized, who live in a state of enforced childishness, no other group is so totally dependent for its well-being on choices made by others...

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Obviously this dependency can be explained to a significant degree by the physical, intellectual, and psychological incapacities of (some) children which render them weaker than (some) older persons. But the phenomenon must also be seen as part of the organization and ideology of the political system itself.

Lacking even the basic power to vote, children are not able to exercise normal constituency powers, articulating self-interests to politicians working toward specific goals. Young children in particular are probably not capable of organizing themselves into a political group; they must always be represented either by their parents or by established governmental or community groups organized to lobby, litigate, and exhort on their behalf.

The causes of younger children have not fared well, partly because these representatives have loyalties diluted by conflicts between children's rights and their own institutional and professional goals.

Older children have organized themselves politically with some success, especially on the issues of the eighteen-year-old vote, civil liberties of school students, and anti-war activities, but they too have relied heavily on the support of adults.

"Successful" reforms on behalf of children—the establishment of juvenile courts, the institution of public schooling, the passage of child labor—were effected only after vigorous political struggles.

While these legal reforms may now seem, in the light of revisionist histories, to have been catalyzed by questionable motives, they did give children certain legally enforceable rights not previously held. Moreover, these reforms signalled some change in general public attitudes about children....

As stated earlier, claims of rights for children fall into two broad categorical claims that the rights which adults enjoy be granted to children, and claims that the special needs and interests of children be recognized as rights. Legislation granting rights to either category probably is preferable to judicial opinions decreeing them, but both governmental branches should be pressed to reexamine and revise children's status under the law. Legal positions will contribute to a new social attitude toward children's rights....

from the Harvard Educational Review, 43:4, 1974

From 'Children's Rights: A Legal Perspective'

Several years ago I wrote an article in which I stated that "The Phrase 'children's rights' is a slogan in search of a definition." Although that search is still continuing, there has been significant progress in our efforts to define and achieve children's rights. I would like to discuss several aspects of that search and to raise questions about the future of the children's rights movement.....

In the field of children's rights, we are not dealing primarily with existing legal rights but with children's needs and interests and attempts to transform these into enforceable rights. We are talking about everything from compulsory school attendance to driving privileges to nurturing requirements.

Children's rights refer to a series of relations. This is not unusual, for in the law we often discuss a person's legal position vis-a-vis a certain set of circumstances. One has certain legal rights as a citizen, as an employee, as an heir, as a criminal defendant, and in other rules within society. Let us think about children's rights in relation to the situation out of which they come, or against which they must be exercised. Children's relations fall within four broad categories of relations, which suggest certain rights:

1. Children's rights in relation to the family
2. The rights of children without families.

Hillary Clinton's views (continued),

3. Children's rights in juvenile -oriented institutions
4. Children's rights in society.....

Children's Rights in Family State Intervention

The first subissue concerns the situations in which family breakdown necessitates state intervention, either in response to voluntary requests for assistance by the family or decisions by government representatives to intervene between a family and a child.

Through child abuse and neglect statutes, society has attempted to define the occasions when intervention may occur under the authority given the state to respond to parental requests for intervention as when a parent tries to turn a child over to an institution or request assistance in raising a child because of the child's alleged incorrigibility.

The guiding principle by which decisions in this area are to be measured is the "best interests of the child." But there is extraordinarily flexibiiity inherent in this concept and the discretion afforded to any decision-maker authorized to enforce it. Although the imprecision of our understanding of human behavior and of the tools we possess for intervening in families in trouble requires considerable flexibility, the main complaints that have arisen against the state's exercise of its intervening powers are that the authority has been abused.

All too often intervention in those families that are most vulnerable to state control, such as the poor or unconventional or ethnic and racial minorities, occurs principally because of the family's powerlessness rather than because of their needs.

This and other indictments of interventions are all too true. However, they must be balanced against the fact that too often, on occasions when intervention is necessary, it does not occur because of the decision maker's extreme reluctance to interrupt family life.

What is needed is a theory that adequately explains the state's appropriate role in child rearing and provides sufficient checks to the exercise of discretion to ensure that authority is exercised only in warranted cases.

The law, unfortunately, is not an exact science and regardless of how careful one tries to be, mistakes will still be made.

That is, I submit, a risk or cost we have to accept until we develop a family policy in this country that provides stigma-free assistance to families in trouble before their problems reach the extreme point of requiring wholesale intervention.

Although it is not a good analogy, one might liken the state's intervention in conditions of extremity with the state's power to condemn, develop a public policy on private property that would permit limited state intervention in the use of that property. For example, zoning restrictions and scenic easements are relatively new features of property law....

Now you might ask. What does all this have to do with children's rights? I believe that when we speak about the rights of children in relation to their families under conditions of family failures, we are really talking about the needs of children to be cared for in order for their own families to function successfully.

If those needs are not met, many of the rights later available to the children will be exercised ineffectively or not at all. Unless we have a family policy in this country, then whatever we do on behalf of children in relation to their families will continue to be band-aid medicine, lacking clear objectives and subject to great abuse....

Independent Decisions by Children

The second subissue is whether and to what extent children have a right to make decisions that conflict with the decisions that their parents or other guardians wish made. Disagreements between children and their parents are a common occurrence and usually do not rise to the level of a legal question. However, several such disagreements have reached the courts, and a body of case law has developed around them....

Because children now remain in the family for longer periods, during which they are still dependent but becoming more and more adult, the opportunities for intrafamily disputes have increased dramatically. The fears that many people have about the formulation of a family policy or a law of children's rights arise from their concern about increasing government control over such intrafamily disputes.

A letter sent out several years ago about the Child and Family Development Act urged persons to oppose the proposed bill because it would, according to the writers, allow children to take parents to court if they were ordered to take out the garbage. Family disagreements that result in legal battles are, of course, of a more serious nature. There are, for instance, a line of cases in which a child either wished or required a certain medical procedure that his or her parents refused to provide.

In some case, the disagreement was between the child and his or her parents and in others between the parents and medical experts. In both types of cases, the state often enforced a child's right to receive necessary care....

Even among persons in the children's rights movement, there is a concern that extending rights to children against their parents is too difficult to control, and in all but the most extreme cases such questions should be resolved by the families, not the court.

I prefer that intervention into an ongoing family be limited to decisions that could have long-term and possibly irreparable effects if they were not resolved. Decisions about motherhood and abortion, schooling, cosmetic surgery, treatment of venereal disease, or employment, and others where the decision or lack of one will significantly affect the child's future should not be made unilaterally by parents. Children should have a right to be permitted to decide their own future if they are competent...*from the Teacher's College Press, 1979*

From "Children's Policies: Abandonment and Neglect"

Reviewing a book about children for a law journal is like talking to W.C. Fields about the subject: one senses that the audience is not enthralled. By and large, the legal profession considers children—when it considers them at all—as object of domestic relations and inheritance laws or as victims of the cycle of neglect, abuse, and delinquency. Yet the law's treatment of children is undergoing great challenge and change. Presumptions about children's capacities are being rebutted: the legal rights of children are being expanded.

As the structure of family life and the role of children within it evolves, the law is likely to become ever more embroiled in social and psychological disputes about the proper relationship between government and family. The task for lawmakers will be to draw the line between public and private responsibility for children.

The task will not be easy, for the rising debate over public intervention in family life has been emotionally charged. To some extent this is unavoidable. The very questions being asked invite fear and confusion, since they touch deeply held and often conflicting convictions about family autonomy and childhood needs.

Continued on page 16

Ford Resumes Chairmanship; CRC Representatives Testify

Harold H. Ford has resumed his position as chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, the House of Representatives panel that handles financial child support legislation, as well as issues dealing with family formation and family preservation.

Ford was barred under House rules from functioning as chairman for several years because he had been indicted on charges of bank fraud, mail fraud, and conspiracy.

Chairman Ford

While the case pressed on in the courts, Thomas Downey (D-NY) became the acting chairman of the subcommittee. Under Downey's leadership, the subcommittee passed the 1988 Family Support Act, which tightened up on financial child support, and also created the federal access visitation grants to the states.

Following Downey's defeat in the November, 1992 election, Robert Matsui (D-CA) became the acting chairman of the subcommittee.

Ford's first trial in his home town of Memphis, Tennessee, ended in a hung jury, with black members of the jury voting for acquittal of Ford, who is also black, and white members of the jury voting for conviction. In a second trial held outside of Memphis, a jury of 11 whites and one black voted to acquit Ford in April, 1993.

Representatives of CRC have testified various times before this important House subcommittee—twice during the months of March and April, 1993.

In one session, March 30, 1993, in a joint hearing with the Committee on Select Revenue Measures, headed by Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Laurie Casey, a recently named policy analyst for CRC, flew from her home in upstate New York to testify on behalf of CRC. Ms. Casey also represented Vermonters for Strong Families, a CRC-affiliate organization.

Laurie Casey

CRC Attacked

Following Ms. Casey's prepared statement, Rep. Matsui, who was at that time the acting chairman, angrily said it was a gross misnomer for the Children's Rights Council to call itself a children's rights group, and that Ms. Casey was confusing the issues.

In a subsequent sparring exchange of views, Ms. Casey made the following points:

- "only 19 percent of child support collected on behalf of welfare recipient children actually reaches the children. The balance is retained by state and federal governments as welfare reimbursements and incentives to collect support. The poorest of our poor, welfare recipient children, are paying for the entire program of child support collections."

Ms. Casey said she had no objection to reimbursement by the noncustodial parents for what the states pay directly to the custodial parents for child support, but that if a noncustodial parent pays beyond that, the additional child support payment should go to the child, not to the state and federal government.

In a follow-up letter to Rep. Matsui, Ms. Casey noted that the average welfare grant in the U.S. is $388, and the average child support payment collected for one child is $219, but the state only forwards $50 as child support to the child's household. The rest is retained for welfare reimbursement and incentives to collect support.

In a welfare household with two children from two different parents, and both noncustodial parents are paying support, only one $50 check is "passed through" to the custodial household.

Casey said she informed Matsui that his home state of California had made $88.5 million profit in 1991 under this plan.

All statistics cited by Casey come from the 16th annual Report to Congress by the Office of Child Support Enforcement, U.S. Health and Human Services. Copies of the Report may be ordered from HHS or from your member of Congress.

Schroeder Agrees with Casey

Following Casey's testimony, an upstate New York newspaper, the Press-Republican, interviewed Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CT), for a response to Casey's testimony.

Schroeder conceded that the nationwide practice of the states taking a portion of the child support check to pay the states a commission for collecting support is undesirable.

But, Schroeder said, "what can we do as motivation for them (the states). I just don't know. States don't want to collect for other states, and they only want to collect support in-state, if they can get out of making AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) payments, but what other kind of club do we use?"

Schroeder was also quoted in the Press-Republican as saying "each year we try to do more about child

support, and we think we have the answer, and then we find we don't. That is one thing that just totally frustrates me."

Casey's answer, as quoted in the Press-Republican article April 16, 1993, is that "Instead of being a referee, the government should be a team player, which means that both parents are part of the team. Keeping both parents involved in their children's lives is the key to child support. Money alone is not the answer to our children's plight. The real question to be asking are those concerning how to ensure our children the emotional and financial support of two parents."

Head of Household Treatment

In her testimony on March 30, Casey also suggested that Congress should do away with the favored head of household filing status, and replace it with a single parent filing status, in order to encourage the sharing of the tax exemption for the child.

Ms. Casey also testified about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which Congress is considering increasing. This is a tax credit to working poor parents. Ms. Casey suggested that non-custodial parents should share in any increase in that credit. This is because in the 1988 Survey of Absent Parents Pilot Study (Urban Institute, Washington, D.C. 1988), 40 percent of noncustodial parents were living below the poverty line.

Ms. Casey also testified that if Congress increases the child exemption, now set at $2,300. it should consider enacting a shared dependency tax exemption in cases where both parents are supporting the children. Under such a plan, both parents would share in the dependency exemption, unless a judge rules otherwise.

For many years, the non-custodial parent received the child exemption. But in 1985, Congress changed the law so that the custodial parent would receive the exemption. The change was made as a rider to another bill, without any hearings. Under Casey's proposal, the exemption would be shared, unless a judge ruled otherwise.

Since testifying before Congress, Ms. Casey says media interest in her views have increased in the four states where she has media contacts—New York, Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts. "Having testified at a Congressional hearing is giving me credibility as I talk about these issues."

She said she gets media attention especially when she talks about the welfare conspiracy against children, "by which I mean the procedure by which only $50 of child support reimbursement for welfare payments reaches the child."

Casey is a custodial and noncustodial parent. She is the mother of 14 year old Thomas, and the stepparent of 11 year old Megan.

Anyone wishing to assist Ms. Casey in tax policy issues may contact her at Post Office Box 81, Moriah Center, New York 12961, phone (518) 942-3366.

For a copy of her testimony. send 10.00 to Ms. Casey for postage and handling, or write to the Human Resources Subcommittee, House Ways and Means, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Other Testimony

CRC President David L. Levy testified at a hearing before the Human Resources Committee in March, 1993.

Levy spoke in favor of measures to encourage family formation and family preservation, but in cases of divorce, he urged legislation that would ensure a child the two parents the child would normally have had during the marriage.

This, Levy said, would produce better parenting for children, as well as improved financial support. For a copy of Levy's statement to the subcommittee, and supporting materials, send $10.00 for postage and handling to CRC.

New Senate Committee Head

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) was the chairman of the Social Security and Family Policy subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, the panel in the Senate that handles child support and other family legislation. When Senator Lloyd Bentsen left the chairmanship of the full Finance Committee to become Treasury Secretary in the Clinton Administration, Moynihan became the powerful chairman of the Finance Committee.

Succeeding Moynihan as chairman of the Social Security and Family Policy Committee is John Breaux (D-LA). The members of the subcommittee are Moynihan, Robert Dole (R-KS), and David Durenberger (R-MN).

Directory of Organizations

Copies of CRC's "Parenting International Directory," the fourth edition of its directory, are still available in hard copy (updated annually) and on IBM 5 1/4" and 3 1/2" disks (updated semi-annually). The cost is $12.00 for either format for CRC members, and $15.00 for non-members.

The directory can be a valuable resource in making referrals around the country to and from your organization.

Order your copy of the fourth edition now from CRC.

The fifth edition will be available in the summer of 1993.

For a listing of 75 books, reports, and audio video tapes available in our "Catalog of Resources," write to CRC, 220 Eye Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Non-members enclose $1.00 for the catalog. Thank you. Membership is $35.00

CRC Chapters

Judith Bauersfeld

The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), the largest stepfamily organization in the United States, with more than 65 chapters nationwide, has affiliated with the Children's Rights Council.

The decision was made by the SAA Board at a meeting on April 24, 1993 in Pittsburgh.

"CRC has an ability to bring diverse groups together towards common goals. We like that," said Judith L. Bauersfeld, Ph.D., president of SAA.

"SAA and CRC have worked informally together for a few years, and we are delighted at that decision to affiliate," said CRC President David L. Levy.

SAA, which was founded in the early 1980's by Emily Visher, Ph.D., and John Visher, M.D., is dedicated to education and research around the issues related to stepfamilies.

SAA, which is headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, participated in the first press conference ever held on Capitol Hill by various organizations concerned with "balanced family law legislation." At the press conference, CRC,. SAA, Grandparents United for Children's Rights, and Mothers Without Custody, joined together in urging Congress to pass a balancing amendment to the Hyde/Shelby bill. A prpovision for a national commission on child welfare, including access/visitation, was subsequently added to the bill (see article elsewhere in this issue).

Levy announced that Bauersfeld has been named to CRC's Advisory Panel.

Jennifer Isham, the president of Mothers Without Custody, and Ethel Dunn, executive director of Grandparents United for Children's Rights, two other national organizations affiliated with CRC, are also members of the Advisory Panel.

Levy also announced that CRC has accepted SAA's invitation to affiliate with SAA. Individuals wanting information on how to join SAA through CRC should contact the CRC office.

State Chapter Developments

Sheila Sands is CRC's new coordinator in Massachusetts. Ms. Sands, who lives in West Springfield, Mass, is a marketing consultant, grandmother, and newly-elected public library trustee in West Springfield. Assistant coordinator in Massachusetts is Sue Parker, a stepmother and nurse in West Roxbury, near Boston.

CRC seeks to form chapters throughout the country, in order to assist the citizens of each state with that state's unique laws. Custody reform is primarily handled on the state level, although Congress is entering the field more and more. If you are part of a national network, you will generally get a better reception than a group that is limited to one state or community.

Coordinators of our state chapters maintain contact by mail exchange and cross-country telephone conference calls between the chapters and CRC national. In this way, chapters can benefit from each other and do not have to constantly "re-invent the wheel".

Chapters exist in 23 states.

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

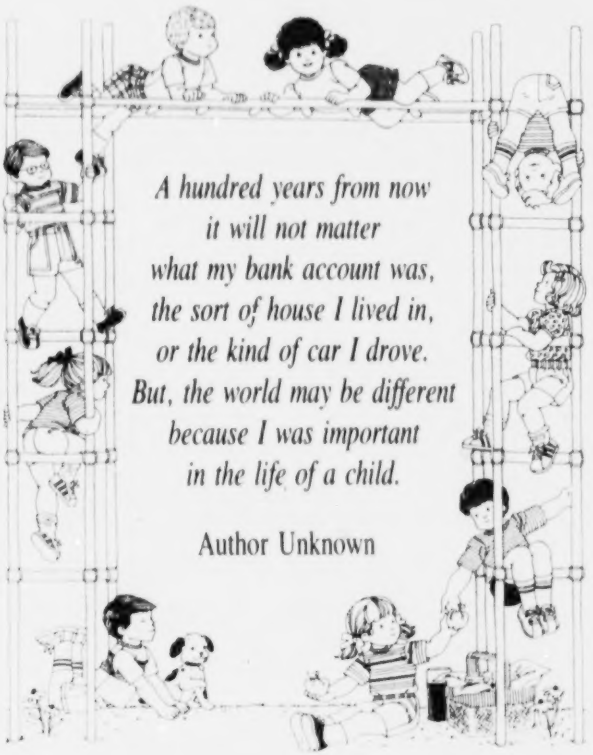
If you would to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community, write to CRC for our Affiliation Booklet.

This 37-page booklet explains everything you want to know about affiliation.

After reviewing the booklet, write to Eric Anderson of Texas, CRC chapter coordinator, for further information. Eric's address is listed on page 19.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

(Continued on Page 19)


A hundred years from now
it will not matter
what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in,
or the kind of car I drove.
But, the world may be different
because I was important
in the life of a child.
Author Unknown

Media Contacts

CRC's National office in Washington, D.C. is fielding from 5 to 10 media inquiries a week. Press people often ask for statistics and facts. Within the past few months, inquiries have come from as far away as the BBC and German TV.

CRC representatives have appeared on TV and radio in various localities, including David Dinn, Indiana CRC coordinator, who appeared on a "Sally Jesse Raphael" segment in January, producing several hundred calls to CRC offices.

CRC has also been quoted in various print media recently, including a Knight-Ridder syndicated article, The Army Times, the Washington Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Sonny Burmeister, head of the Georgia Council for Children's Rights, has been quoted in Time magazine, CBS radio, CNN, Christian Broadcasting Network, and other media discussing domestic violence issues as they affect children and families.

Jeff Strang, a representative of Children's Rights Council of Illinois, appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey" show in January to discuss access/visitation interference. Strang said "you must love your children more than you hate the other spouse."

Anna Keller, vice president of CRC; Burmeister; and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead appeared on the Family Law and Justice program in April aired by attorney Louis Kiefer. The program, part of the newly formed America Talk syndication, was broadcast on radio stations in five states.

David L. Levy appeared on the same station a week later.

Ron Hoosier, a CRC activist living temporarily in California, appeared on a radio station in Sacramento, CA. to complain of access problems for children and parents in California.

CRC was pleased to be listed as the supporting organization for a rally on Capitol Hill sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America on March 18. The CWLA is a large organization ($7 million annual budget) formed in 1920, that works on foster care and other child-related issues.

Hillary Clinton

Continued form page 12

"There are as many policy proposals as there are theories of child-rearing. Adults advance opinions about public policy that they consider validated by their own personal experience as children.

Professional surrogates for children claim to want "everything good for kids". The meandering road toward a comprehensive children's policy is paved with good intentions, most of them "as resis
tant to translation into legislative policy as (they are) unexceptionable."

The difficulties in shaping children's policy stem not only from the sentiments that attach to the issues but also from a cultural reluctance to make children's needs a public responsibility. Politicians, not wishing to appear as advocates of interference with the family, balk at turning their Boys Town rhetoric into public commitments on any but the safest of issues.

Besides, for most public officials the idea or a federal policy for children is alien. In a recent address to a conference I attended on children's needs, a United States senator admitted he knew nothing about the subject and would have felt more comfortable discussing energy. Policymakers are simply not accustomed to thinking about children's needs in the same ways they think about missile development, dam construction or even old-age assistance.

from Yale Law Journal, 86:7, 1977.

In Need of Legal Help?

If your case is on appeal, and involves a broad legal principle (such as joint custody/shared parenting, parental kidnapping, or the fairness of some domestic relations law or procedure), CRC may be able to file an amicus curiae (Friend of the Court) brief, as we have done in other state appeal court cases.

If we win the case on behalf of a child, as we have won cases in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Ohio, and elsewhere, the case can serve as precedent for other cases heard in that state, and elsewhere in the country.

We can only consider cases on appeal. We have been asked to enter cases at the trial level (which are not yet on appeal), but we regret we do not yet have the resources to do this.

Do you need legal help in a case? Is the case (or will it be) on appeal? Does the case have broad applicability? If the answer to three questions is yes, contact CRC. To increase your chances of winning on appeal, make certain that all constitutional arguments are raised in the lower court.

Legal arguments appear in CRC Report No. L102A ("Joint Custody as a Child's Constitutional Right").

If a mental health professional or other expert has made a finding or statement that is helpful, let us know.

An amicus curiae brief is not the main brief in the case filed by you or your attorney; it is an extra brief filed by CRC to draw the court's attention to the importance of this case, and its effect on children's rights.

Attorneys for CRC are interested in handling these cases on a reasonable fee basis. As mentioned above, we can only consider cases on appeal.

Court Cases

Marital Fault Held Relevant to Custody Award

A lower court should not have granted physical custody of two children to an adulterous mother, the Mississippi Supreme Court has ruled. The parents were both found fit, and granted joint legal custody. The Supreme Court said that, although marital fault should not be a sanction in determining custody, it was a relevant factor to consider. The trial judge had attached "too much weight to difficulties that might be created by the father's work schedule, and too little to the mother's moral fitness," the Supreme Court said.

Moak v. Moak; Miss SupCt., No. 91-CA-0465, 12/31/92

Arbitration on Custody Disputes Not Binding

An arbitration award of child custody is not binding in court, if one of the parties challenges the award as not being in the best interests of the children, according to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. The court agreed that state law favors private resolution of disputes. It noted that the parents agreed that the father would have custody, and that they also agreed that disputes not resolved by mediation would be submitted to arbitration. When the father sought child support, the mother submitted the custody issue to mediation, and subsequently to arbitration, where the decision went in favor of the mother getting custody. The father refused to relinquish custody, and the mother sought to have the arbitrators' decision enforced as a court order. The Superior Court said that courts are not bound to confirm the results of arbitration in custody cases, noting an earlier ruling that contracts as to the custody of minor children can always be set aside in the best interests of the child. However, the court also said that arbitration provisions of this nature are not contrary to public policy, and remanded the case for a determination as to whether the arbitrators' decision should be enforced.

(Miller (Detweiler) v. Miller; Pa SuperCt., No. 40 Phil. 1992, 2/19/93).

Unproven Allegations of Child Abuse Adequate Basis for Visitation Restrictions

A divorced father could properly be restricted to supervised visitation with his son, because of allegations that he had sexually abused the child, even though the allegations had neither been proved nor disproved, the New York Supreme Court ruled. The Supreme Court dissented from a comment by the trial judge that, even if there were a one in 10,000 chance that the abuse claim was true, she would not take that chance with the child. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court said restriction on the father's visits was clearly in the child best' s interests. As factors, it cited the serious nature of the allegation, the child's age (3), and the undisputed emotional deterioration of the child.

(New York ex rel. H.K. v. M.S.; NY AppDiv 1stDept., NYLJ 1/27/93).

Removal of Child Does not Pre-empt Need for Best Interests Analysis

A father should not have been granted custody of his child merely because the mother violated the court's orders, retained the child in Norway, and prevented the father from exercising visitation for more than two years, the Alaska Supreme Court held. A best interests analysis is an essential component to a custody determination, and is not pre-empted by a parent's non-cooperation, the Supreme Court said. The Supreme Court overturned the custody award to the father, and remanded for a redetermination of custody based on a best interests analysis.

Hakas v. Bergenthal; Alaska SupCt., No. 3907, 12/24/92

(In the rehearing, CRC wonders if the "best interest" argument was raised by citing the research regarding the greater risks that children face by being raised in single parent households).

Child Support Can't be Cut Because of New Business Launch

A father who left a salaried position as a warehouse supervisor in the face of changed job conditions, cannot have his child support and maintenance obligations suspended because the new business he launched after leaving is not expected to generate any income in its early phase, according to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, Second District. The issue for the court was whether the man left his warehouse supervisor job voluntarily. He was reassigned from first-shift to third-shift supervisor, told that advancement was improbable, and the position was scheduled for elimination within two years. When he was offered a separation package, he terminated his employment and purchased a video rental franchise from which he did not expect to draw a salary until the business was viable. The Appeals Court said the man's decision to leave the first job, although "well-intended," was voluntary, adding that he could have started the new business while continuing in his existing employment. Those who are obliged to pay support or maintenance have only a qualified, not an absolute, right to make career decisions that will diminish the income available to meet their obligations, the Appeals Court said.

(Van Offeren v. Van Offeren; Wis CtApp. 2dDist., No. 92—0530, 12/30/92).

These cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter, and appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

The Gregory K case

CRC had filed a friend of the court brief during the trial court hearing in that Florida case in 1992. Our brief did not argue where the 12 year old boy (then known as Gregory K) should live, but only stated that a child should not have to bring a proceeding in his own name to terminate his parents parental rights.

We had argued that adults—such as state officials, or the foster parents who wanted to adopt the boy, should bring the

proceedings. The mother whose rights were terminated in court has appealed the decision that allowed the adoption by the foster parents, but CWC has not filed a friend of the court brief on appeal.

After extensive discussions within CRC, and among our chapter coordinators, we have not reached consensus on whether a parental termination case should be brought by the child in his or her own name. Thus, we have decided not to be involved on the appeal.

We know this adoption is what the child wanted, and from having met George Russ, the adoptive father, we believe that the boy—who changed his name to Shawn Russ—is in a good, safe home, the kind of home he has always wanted—and that every child wants and should have.

We wish Shawn and his new family well. And yet we are still concerned that family preservation (parenting) services were not provided to Shawn's natural family (including his two brothers) in Florida, so that the deterioration of Shawn's family life might have been prevented. And thus the family would have had a better shot at working out their problems.

In Michigan's "Families First" program, social workers work intensively with families for 90 days to develop basic parenting skills. Why does Michigan invest so much in this intensive program? Because the state knows that family break-up will be much more damaging to families, and more costly to the state.

Thank You, Contributors!

We wish to thank those who have joined, renewed their membership, contributed to CRC, or ordered materials from CRC from January 1, 1993 through March 31, 1993. * Denotes life member of CRC (financial contribution totaling $500 or more).

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(Continued from Page 15)

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Volunteers, Materials, Services Needed

Are you interested in office work, public relations, fund-raising, membership development, tax issues affecting the family, advocacy, research or writing? Or would you like to form an CRC chapter in your state, city or county? If so, please write to CRC. We will send you information. Thank you.

If you can donate materials to CRC, such as computers, typewriters, fax machines, or telephones, we can use them at our national office in Washington, D.C. or give them to our chapters around the country. And you can obtain a tax deduction for your contribution.

If you know of an accounting firm that does audits for non-profit groups, and the firm would consider doing an annual audit for CRC pro bono or at a reduced rate, please let us know. We currently pay a substantial amount of money for our annual audit and IRS Form 990.

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Organization phone _____ Home phone _____
Work phone _____ If organization is listed in CRC Directory, organization phone number will be listed.
Home and work phone numbers are for CRC internal use only.
Fax number _____ Chapter name, if affiliated with CRC _____
As a member, please send me *Speak Out For Children* (CRC's Quarterly Newsletter), Catalog of Resources (in which I receive discounts) and the following at NO ADDITIONAL COST:

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☐ For my membership of more than $35 or renewal, send me a list of free items I'm entitled to (the higher the contributions, the more items that are free).
If you are an individual member of CRC, your name may be given on occasion to other children's rights organizations, organizations that support CRC, or individuals seeking a referral for help. If you do not want your name to be given for these purposes, please check here ☐

Call (202) 547-6227 to charge your membership to a credit card, or
send completed form to CRC, 220 I Street, NE, Suite 230, Washington, DC 20002-4362.

Bulk copies of this newsletter are available (20 for $15, 50 for $30, and 100 for $59) for distribution to policy-makers, judges, and interested persons in your state. Send order to CRC.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

About CRC 2
Chief Justice Burger Receives Award 3
Birney CRC's new Advisor 4
Announcements 4
Police, Women Forming Groups 4
CRC's 7th Conference a Success 5
Access Committee Grounded 6
Clinton Sends Message to Candlelight Vigil ..7
Urban Commission Report 8
New Directory Available 9
Need Legal Help? 9
In The Courts 11
Bills/Resolutions 12
Around the Country 14
Inside CRC 15
Chapter News 17
CRC Chapters 18

License Revocation Bill Also Under Consideration

House Passes Support Modification Bill

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that would sharply limit the ability of states to modify child support orders entered into in other states.

The bill, H.R. 454, approved by voice vote on August 2, 1993, is aimed at preventing forum-shopping to obtain modifications of child support orders entered into in other states. The bill is expected to be considered by the Senate this fall.

The report accompanying the bill said "This provision does not discriminate against fathers or non-custodial parents. Indeed, it is completely neutral with regard to gender or custodial status. The provision applies with equal force to custodial parents, including mothers, who relocate and subsequently seek a modification of a support order entered in another state."

However, the only examples the Report gives are of non-custodial parents who move to other states to seek downward modifications of support orders entered into the state where the custodial parent and children are living. The Report said such actions "contribute to the growing problem of relatively low levels of child support payments in interstate cases and to inequities in child support payment levels which are based solely on the non-custodial parent's choice of residence."

No examples are given of custodial parents relocating to other states, cutting off access of the child to the non-custodial parent, and seeking upward modifications of support. Nor does the bill propose that states be required to honor visitation orders entered into in other states.

The bill is based on a recommendation of the Interstate Child Support Commission, which issued its report last year.

Margaret Campbell Haynes, who chaired the Commission, previously wrote in "Speak Out for Children" (Fall, 1992) that "...if the custodial parent and the child move from the issuing state, and the noncustodial parent stays there, the modification hearing will be in the state of the noncustodial parent. Convenience to the custodial parent or IV-D agency is irrelevant."

Haynes said the recommendation for uniformity also stems from the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law.

*See **Support Bill** page 5*

Former Chief Justice Burger receives award from Elliott H. Diamond and David L. Levy of CRC (See Story on page 3).

CRC'S EIGHTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE APRIL 13-17, 1994 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BETHESDA, MARYLAND (the same conference site as in 1993). PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.

PS 023137

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nationwide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC favors family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC seeks to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial approach, and providing fair financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 25 states and three national affiliate organizations: Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR), Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, N.E., Washington, D.C, 20002, or call (202) 547-6227. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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CRC Presents Award to Former Chief Justice Burger

CRC presented a "Distinguished Healer" award to former Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger in a ceremony on March 24, 1993.

When he was Chief Justice of the United States, Burger had, according to press reports, urged lawyers to be healers, not litigators.

During the half-hour ceremony in his august chambers in the U.S. Supreme Court Building, Burger said he had actually urged that lawyers be "healers, not gunslingers", but apparently, someone sanitized the comment.

CRC named the healer awards it gives each year to lawyers, judges and others in the domestic relations area after Burger "because of his words of wisdom to attorneys," said Elliott H. Diamond, a co-founder of CRC, who attended the ceremony.

The meeting with Burger was informal and chatty. Burger noted that after his retirement as Chief Justice in 1985, he has been busy. One of his jobs was as Chairman of the Bicentennial Commission, which supervised the observance of government activities celebrating the U.S. 200's birthday.

The several year-long observation of the U.S. bicentennial is culminating in a book about the Bicentennial, which was written by Burger. The book is due to be published by Simon and Schuster in 1994, he said.

The award given to Burger is an engraved plaque. It said "To The Honorable Warren E. Burger, former Chief Justice of the United States, for advocating that lawyers be healers, not litigators—you have helped children throughout the country."

Others attending the ceremony were CRC President David L. Levy, CRC activist Don Bieniewicz, and CRC college legislative interns Brian Brilliant, Mary Kay Saverino, and David Moravek.

(See photo on page 1)

Support Bill

Continued from page 1

But Don Chavez of New Mexico, who represented non-custodial parents and children on the Commission, wrote in response to Haynes in our Fall, 1992 issue that "the mere fact that the parent with custody moves to another state would not be enough to remove jurisdiction to the state under UIFSA; but any action by the non-custodial parent that was seen as condoning or encouraging the move would be interpreted as conferring jurisdiction on the new state to hear a modification order."

This could be, speculated Chavez, as simple as a non-custodial parent helping the child to pack a bag for the move to where the custodial parent is living. The state where the custodial parent and child have moved to would then be the forum to hear any child support modification orders.

Chavez says "instead of H.R. 454, which skirts the issue, Congress should be passing legislation that gets to the heart of protecting the constitutional right of children to have full and active parenting by their mothers and fathers, regardless of the parents' marital situation. Where there is such parenting, the money will flow more naturally, without huge government intervention."

H.R. 454 was sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA).

Revocation Bill

A wide-ranging financial child support bill (S. 689) introduced by Sen. Bradley (D-NJ), would, if passed by Congress, provide the following:

- require the states to establish procedures for withholding professional or occupational licenses from noncustodial parents who owe support;
- require the states to deny driver's licenses to parents who owe support;
- authorize attachment by states of bank accounts of obligor parents;
- authorize IRS assistance in collection of support arrearages;
- authorize attachment of public and private retirement funds;
- require the states to provide criminal penalties for non-support;
- require the federal government to fund child support assurance demonstration projects, under which the government would provide a minimum assistance to a custodial parent and child if sufficient support is not being paid; the government would still attempt to collect the support;
- require support to continue until the age of 18 or until a child graduates from a secondary school;
- require the states to give courts discretionary power to order child support up to age 22 if a child attends a college or vocational school;
- require social security numbers on marriage licenses and child support orders;
- allow state child support agencies to access and use credit reporting agencies;
- establish laws which provide for a rebuttable presumption that the choice made by the obligee of health care insurance for the children is appropriate;
- tighten parental establishment procedures at hospitals;
- establish a "National Child Support Guidelines Commission";
- expand the Parent Locator System to include visitation orders. At present, the Parent Locator System can only be used to find the location of parents who owe financial child support, and in parental kidnapping cases.

The bill implements many of the recommendations of the Interstate Child Support Commission's report which was issued in 1992.

The Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the bill, can be reached by phone at (202) 224-4515.

Similar bills in the House are H.R. 1600, Sponsored by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ), phone (202) 225-4465 and H.R.1691, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), phone (202) 225-2265.

CRC's View

CRC has decided to oppose S. 689, following consultation with our state chapter coordinators, because

Continued on page 4

Birney is CRC's Newest Advisor

Birney

David Birney, Shakespearean actor and star of a TV series in the 1970's called "Bridget Loves-Bernie," is CRC's newest advisor.

Birney, who lives in Santa Monica, California, has twin children, age 9, named Peter and Mollie, an older daughter, and two stepchildren from his marriage to Meredith Baxter-Birney. He and Baxter-Birney are divorced.

Birney, who does volunteer work on biomedical research and other issues, spoke at the Candlelight Vigil at CRC's Seventh National Conference. He read an excerpt from a book entitled "The Alphabet at Grace".

Birney performed the lead role in Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" in Washington's Sylvan Theatre in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1993 and performs other Shakespearean roles during the year around the country.

Birney said "In a time of acknowledged crisis in the American family, it seems obvious that in the interests of our children, we must support their nurture, their support, their embrace by the structure of family—by both parents, even in the event of family crisis or divorce. Indeed, I think this is one of the most pressing issues of our decade, with ramifications extending into every aspect of our social fabric."

CRC President David L. Levy said "We welcome Birney as an advisor and hope he can help raise visibility for the issues and CRC among people concerned with strengthening the two-parent family."

Announcements

Police, Women, Forming Groups

Two new national groups are being formed in areas where there are no known similar organizations. They are:

• Police Officers for Shared Parenting. If you are an officer of the law and would like to participate, send dues of $25.00 or write to Alexandria, VA. officer Rusty Peverell at 8623 Mt. Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA., 22204, (703) 799-3988, or Prince George's County, MD. officer Judy McClosky, at 5000 Rhode Island Avenue, Hyattsville, MD. 20781, phone (301) 699-2630.

"Police officers going into the state legislatures in favor of a child's right to two parents could create a powerful effect around the country," said Peverell and McClosky, who are helping the group get started.

• Women for Equality (WE). If you are a woman who wants to work for equality in the family law area, and possibly help with counselling of women prior to divorce, send dues of $25.00 or write for information to WE, Post Office Box 5460, Friendship Station, Washington, D.C. 20016.

"Women who favor shared parenting, and who counsel other women prior to divorce, need to be heard from," said Ann Marini, a Maryland physician who recently testified before a Congressional committee on behalf of WE.

If you would like to be a state representative for either group, let them know.

Both groups are considering affiliating with CRC.

National Congress for Men and Children

Dr. Stanley Clawar, co-author of "Children Held Hostage," will be a featured speaker at the National Congress for Men and Children (NCMC) annual conference on October 14-17, 1993 in Kansas City, Missouri. Clawar's book is recommended by the American Bar Association. Other speakers will include Dr. Ralph Underwager and Judge James Beasley. For information, phone (913) 432-3875. The phone number for the Civic Center Hotel, where the conference will be held, is (913) 342-6919.

Continued from page 3

increased government regulation of only the financial child support aspects are worsening the problem for children.

CRC's position is based partly on the following:

• "From a federal budget perspective, Child Support Enforcement is an expensive disaster," says a report issued in June, 1992 by Republican House members E. Clay Shaw, Nancy L. Johnson and Fred Grandy.

• A report provided by the General Accounting Office at the request of Congresswomen Marge Roukema and Barbara Kennelly and Senator Bill Bradley, released January 9, 1992 stated that 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the fathers say it is because the fathers were unable to pay. This data is not reflected in the legislation.

CRC President David L. Levy testified before a House of Representatives subcommittee on June 10 and before President Clinton's Welfare Reform Working Group August 19 that America is finally beginning to realize that the welfare system, which has spawned a generation of single parent households, at tremendous public cost, needs reform. What is much less realized, Levy stated, is that the child support system has also spaned a generation of single parent households, at tremendous public cost, and needs reform.

For a copy of Levy's testimony before the House Committee and the Welfare Reform Group, most of which has been shown on TV on C-Span, CRC members should send a self-addressed stamped envelope to CRC; non-CRC members should also enclose $5.

CRC's Seventh Conference a Success

CRC's Seventh National Conference April 28-May 2, 1993, was our largest, most successful conference ever. The quality of speakers and attendees from more than 40 states from as far away as Hawaii, Great Britain and Canada, the book and author luncheon, workshops, candlelight vigil, and other activities were favorably received.

More than 300 people attended the conference, plus another 100-150 people attended special events, such as the David Brenner benefit performance, the Candlelight Vigil at the Lincoln Memorial, and the Capitol Hill Symposium that featured Sen. John J. Rockefeller (D-WV).

President Clinton sent a message to the candlelight vigil (see related story below).

The conference theme was "Beyond Rhetoric: Assuring a Child's Right to Two Parents."

Speakers at the conference included a panel on Capitol Hill that spoke of "Ways to Encourage the Two-Parent Family, Especially After Divorce." The panelists included:

Rockefeller

• Sen. John J. Rockefeller (D-WV), who spoke of the National Commission on Children, a bi-partisan group he chaired, whose final report has served as a basis for Clinton Administration policy.

Rockefeller said that in framing public policy, America "sometimes forgets" that children are entitled to both the emotional and financial support of both of their parents. The Commission stated that the ideal situation is when children share the same household, but children, Rockefeller said, also need health insurance, good local schools, and good communities which take responsibility for children and families within those communities. "That community responsibility used to work in America, and ought to work today," he said.

"Shocking numbers of children are born out of wedlock," he said. He noted that when Sen. Moynihan wrote in 1965 that one out of four black children were being born out of wedlock, Moynihan was decried as a racist. But now, one in four of all children are born out of wedlock, and "society doesn't seem to be saying much about it."

"Schools are inadequate, streets aren't safe, I had someone assassinated in the front of my driveway...."

He said America needs to strengthen parent-child relationships, regardless of the form of the family configuration.

If they are divorced, parents often can't provide health insurance...especially if they don't have full custody. Both parents need to be involved in their children's lives.

"We know child support enforcement is broken—too many parents do not make payments, and excuses are not acceptable."

He said he knows CRC hates the expression "deadbeat dads."

"You (CRC) say that about 41% of absent parents are having custody and visitation problems, and that is one of the reasons. On our commission, we were not entirely sympathetic to that as an excuse. Everybody has problems in life, parents have terrible emotional tolls, parents are fighting for custody, that's vicious, that's horrible, that tears people apart, but still, children come first, everything else comes second, nothing can come before supporting children."

He said about $25 billion in the private economy is owed children by absent fathers or mothers. "We on the Commission are very angry about the $25 billion that is absent from the lives of children. You just need to know that where the Commission wound up, is that there is no excuse for keeping this money from children. More could be collected in support. We understand there are excuses, but we ended up saying there cannot be an acceptable excuse for keeping money from children."

Custody and visitation concerns are very vital, he said, noting that he has two sisters who have gone through difficult divorces. "I know the rage, the misery, and the anger, and one of my sister's boys at the age of 22 committed suicide, partly because of some of the strains that appeared. Even with all that, children come first. Whether its my sister or anybody else, I cannot accept any excuses for $25 billion being owed in child support. All 34 commission members voted for stronger child support enforcement," he said."But I have friendly thoughts coming, too. We did recognize problems with schools, unfriendly environments, and they tear us apart as a society...We put a tremendous effort on family formation and family preservation, and I have introduced legislation on that, and the Clinton administration is supportive of that."

Regarding family preservation, he said that intervention on the part of family counselors and social workers has an enormous power for good, but perhaps creates more of a problem for men than women, "because we (men) have a phony macho view, a phony view, that we have to get over, because intervention by others on a voluntary basis can provide enormous good."

Rockefeller has introduced legislation that would assist with family formation (see elsewhere in this issue), and he said he hopes there will be good implementation of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which is a job protection bill for six weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child, or the sickness of a child or a parent.

Rockefeller was introduced by Susan DeConcini, a longtime child advocate.

Sonenstein

• Freya Sonenstein, Ph.D., Director of Population Studies, the Urban Institute, a primary author of the 1988 Survey of Absent Parents (SOAP) Report which found that fathers in Ohio and Florida were paying up to 40% more in child support than the Census Bureau (which only polls custodial mothers) reported receiving. Sonenstein said payment of child support may increase child's well being, and may also reduce problems for children and reduce conflict, but a more efficient system may not change fathers in the short run. She said the U.S. does not have uniform, required expectations of the role of

non-custodial parents in the lives of their children. Without such expectations, we can not expect improved child outcomes (measurements of child well-being).

"There are lots of holes in our research," she said, including the need for research on:

A) the relationship between child support income and parental behavior;

B) the quality of parent-child and parent-parent relationships;

C) non-custodial parents, because almost no current studies mention non-custodial parents' rights and responsibilities. "They (non-custodial parents) are a particularly neglected research group," and

D) the role of custodial fathers.

Popenoe

• David Popenoe, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University, author of seven books, and co-chair of the Council on Families in America, said that ten years ago in the college community, it was politically incorrect to favor the two parent family. The tide is changing, and Popenoe credited both Sen. Rockefeller's Commission and the report on the Commission on America's Urban Families, which was issued at the end of President Bush's term. Popenoe said he was present at a White House meeting where Bush indicated he had mishandled the family issue. Popenoe cited research that said the current population is "the first in our nation to be less well off psychologically, economically and morally than their parents were at the same age." He said the decline in child well-being is linked to the change in family structure, with substantial numbers of children not being raised today with two parents.

Yoest

• Charmaine Yoest, Deputy Director of Public Policy, Family Research Council, said we have learned from "the divorce experiment in the last 20 or 30 years that...divorce may create as many problems as it solves. Divorce is difficult for adults, and has long-term consequences for children... America has in large measure lost the principle of adult sacrifice necessary to encourage marriage."

She said that from a public policy area, America needs to "seriously reconsider no-fault divorce laws. The marriage contract—designed to protect members of the family—is one of the easiest contracts to break today."

She spoke of the need for cultural change, so that people will take marriage and personal responsibility more seriously. America should consider the need for more counselling, before marriage and during marriage, and encourage more community involvement to support marriage.

She spoke of the need for divorced parents to develop better cooperation, which she described as conflict resolution. "Conflict resolution in the family provides strong learning lessons for children," she said.

Henry

• Ron Henry, a partner with the Kaye, Scholer law firm, talked of the unintended consequences of many current family law policies, which serve to work against family formation and family preservation, and then work against the involvement of two parents in the event of divorce. He said that parents, including parents in divorce, should be treated as human beings rather than just as objects to be acted on by policymakers. He cited research that shows that where parents are encouraged to be active in their children's lives after divorce, parenting is improved, and so is financial child support. Henry praised Sonenstein, Popenoe and Yoest, who had called for more and better research that would form a better basis for public policy in the family law area.

The panel was moderated by CRC President David L. Levy.

Access (Visitation) Committee Grounded, but Other Help Promised

The national Commission on Child and Family Welfare, which would have a special emphasis on child access (visitation), will not be funded, CRC learned in August; thus there will be no commission.

However, CRC has also learned that efforts are being made to bring about by other means some of the emphasis on access/visitation issues the Commission would have highlighted. Details on this efforts will not be available until later in 1993, according to CRC sources on Capitol Hill.

The commission was authorized by Public Law 102-521 (the Hyde/Shelby bill, also known as 18 U.S. Code 228). That law makes it a federal crime to flee across state lines to "willfully" avoid payment of financial child support.

The Commission was to have been an attempt to provide some access/visitation balance in the bill. Under Congress's two-step process, first there is authorization, then funding. Not all projects which are authorized are subsequently funded.

Members of the commission would not have been appointed until after the funding was approved.

Despite letters of support from several members of the House, including Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Walter R. Tucker (D-CA), and Andy Jacobs (D-IN), the key House subcommittee, under the leadership of powerful subcommittee chairman William Natcher (D-KY), refused to fund the Commission. Sources on Capitol Hill say Natcher was determined not to fund any commissions not recommended in President Clinton's budget.

The same situation held in the Senate where Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI), who sponsored the Commission in the bill, and who is also a member of the funding subcommittee, attempted to secure funding, but funding subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA), also declined to fund any new commissions.

Without the $2 million (or at least a part of those funds), the Commission can not be established.

President Clinton Sends Message to Candlelight Vigil

President Clinton sent a message to CRC's 1993 Candlelight Vigil at the Lincoln Memorial, saying "(CRC's) efforts to improve parenting will help many Americans give their children the beginning they deserve."

The President's message is reproduced at right.

About 300 people attended CRC's Third Annual Candlelight Vigil April 27, in which perfect weather, candles flickering in the shadow of Abraham Lincoln, and an excellent sound system, produced a spiritual, yet clearly-heard ceremony.

The vigil served to validate the estimated 6,600,000 children who are having their access (visitation) with their non-custodial parents denied or interfered with by the custodial parents. Legislatures and the courts are doing little to prevent this interference, in CRC's view.

Speakers at the vigil included freshman Congressman Albert Wynn (D-MD), Suzy Yehl Marta, president of Rainbows for All God's Children, Shaumberg, Illinois; Gerrie Highto, Baltimore, Maryland representative of Grandparents United; and David Birney, Santa Monica, California, the noted Shakespearean actor, who is CRC's newest advisor. CRC President David L. Levy and CRC of Georgia coordinator Sonny Burmeister participated in the vigil.

CRC asked its chapters to hold vigils around the country at the same time as the vigil at the Lincoln Memorial. Vigils held simultaneously with the one in Washington, some of which received media coverage, were in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Colorado, and Tennessee.

Although information on the numbers of children who reportedly do not receive financial child support are frequently cited in the media, the vigils by CRC represent an effort to provide figures on children who do not receive access (visitation), or parenting time, with the non-custodial parents. We suggest you cite the figure applicable in your state when you give testimony or talk to media in your state.

The 6,600,000 was estimated as follows: There are an estimated 16,000,000 children of divorce, and millions more children of unwed parents. The low estimate of these children (primarily from divorce) is 18,000,000. Various studies, including research by Wallerstein and Kelly in "Surviving the Breakup" (Basic Books, 1980) indicate custodial interference with access in 25 percent to 50 percent of cases. Using a middle figure (37 percent as an average) of children suffering from interference with access, times 18,000,000, yields about 6,650,000 children. Census figures for each state provided estimates for the number of children in each states who are affected.

The estimated number of children whose access (visitation) to a non-custodial parent is interfered with by a custodial parent are listed above. Conference attendees read the numbers below, out loud, during the ceremony.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1993

Greetings to everyone gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for the Candlelight Vigil sponsored by the Children's Rights Council.

As President and as a father, I am deeply concerned about the fate of our children. Children are our most precious resource, and their needs are a national priority.

To ensure that every child will reach his or her full physical and mental potential, we must enact bold reforms in health care and education. To protect our children from violence, parents must safeguard them during their crucial years of learning and development. We must help our families stay strong, for it is the family that provides the child with the love, discipline, reassurance, and direction needed to prepare them for the future. Your efforts to improve parenting will help many Americans give their children the beginning they deserve.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and inspiring ceremony.

Bill Clinton

State	Number of children
Alabama	115,000
Alaska	10,000
Arizona	69,000
California	700,000
Colorado	85,000
Connecticut	90,000
Delaware	16,500
Dist. of Columbia	18,000
Florida	298,000
Georgia	161,000
Hawaii	28,000
Idaho	27,000
Illinois	336,000
Indiana	162,000
Iowa	85,000
Kansas	68,000
Kentucky	100,500
Louisiana	123,000
Maine	33,000
Maryland	123,000
Massachusetts	185,000
Michigan	270,000
Minnesota	119,000
Mississippi	74,000
Missouri	114,000
Montana	22,500
Nebraska	46,000
Nevada	22,000
New Hampshire	27,000
New Jersey	216,000
New Mexico	39,000
New York	518,000
North Carolina	172,000
North Dakota	18,000
Ohio	316,000
Oklahoma	99,000
Oregon	83,000
Pennsylvania	349,000
Rhode Island	27,000
South Carolina	99,000
South Dakota	19,000
Tennessee	135,000
Texas	419,000
Utah	45,000
Vermont	15,000
Virginia	157,000
Washington	122,000
West Virginia	56,500
Wisconsin	135,000
Wyoming	13,500

Urban Commission Report Strongly Recommends More Two-Parent Families

"Many single parents do an admirable job of raising children, often under adverse circumstances. But the evidence is clear. On the whole, the two-parent home is the best model for childrearing, and for overall society well-being".

This is one of the findings in Families First, a report of the National Commission on America's Urban Families, issued in January, 1993.

The bi-partisan commission, named by President Bush, was chaired by John Ashcroft, former governor of Missouri, and Annette Strauss, co-chair, former mayor of Dallas, Texas.

"The family unit in America is weakening," the report noted. "Child well-being is declining. A generation ago, an American child could reasonably expect to grow up with a mother and father. Today, an American child can reasonably expect not to," said the 86 page report.

"The commission's intensive review of the research literature, examination of the conditions of families and programs, and consideration of testimony from citizens and experts from across the country lead us to agree with the nation's mayors, who prompted you (President Bush) to establish the Commission," Ashcroft and Strauss said in the Report's opening statement. "Many of the most pressing problems of our cities, and of our nation, are substantially attributable to the dissolution of the family."

The National Commission on America's Urban Families echoed the findings of the National Commission on Children, chaired by Senator John J. Rockefeller (D-WV), which issued its Report in 1992. But whereas the Rockefeller Commission said that America needs to encourage two parent families, its recommendations were often more single parent policies. In the Urban Commission report, the language of both the findings and recommendations were more strongly aimed to strengthening the two parent family.

The Urban Commission, however, did not receive a fraction of the publicity that the Rockefeller Commission received.

The Children's Rights Council, which had met with staff of the Urban Commission in 1992, was curious why.

We learned from someone close to the Commission that Governor Ashcroft, at the time the Urban Commission's report was finished, was running for chairman of the Republican National Committee. Afraid that some liberal Republicans might not like the Commission's heavy emphasis on the two parent family, Ashcroft held up publication of the Report. A month or so later, after Ashcroft lost his bid to head the Republican National Commission, he tried to publicize the Urban Commission's findings, but found that it was too late—the momentum had been lost.

(CRC believes Ashcroft may have strengthened his position by pointing to the realization by both liberals and conservatives that more must be done to encourage the two-parent family).

New Strategy Recommended

The Commission proposed a "new strategy to help reverse the current trend of family disintegration and increase the proportion of the children who grow up in two parent families."

The Commission recommended programs to empower the family, strengthen marriage, strengthen the relationship between parents and children, build community support for families, and change the nation's culture to give families priority.

Some of the specific recommendations:

- eliminate the marriage penalty in the tax code;
- increase the personal-exemption for dependent children;
- reform welfare by limiting most benefits to two years;
- require parental responsibility by conditioning AFDC on children attending school, by parents taking parenting classes, and families participating in preventive health care programs;
- open public housing to more low-income, two parent families;
- promote family formation through better marital preparation;
- institute waiting periods for divorces involving children, perhaps coupled with counseling or marital education;
- more parenting education;
- identify the father of every child born in the U.S.
- strengthen the child support system;
- the courts should consider which parent is most likely to allow the non-custodial parent to maintain an ongoing relationship with the children;
- foster parenting skills;
- create an Index of Family Strengths, under which the Census Bureau would report each year on the percentage of the following: adults married, first marriages intact, births to married parents, children living with their two, married parents, children living with two married parents.

The commissioners, in addition to Ashcroft and Strauss, were Victor Ashe, mayor of Knoxville, TX; David Blankenhorn, president, Institute for American Values, New York; Lou Dantzler, executive director, Challengers Boys and Girls Club, Los Angeles, CA; Alphonso Jackson, executive director, Housing Authority of Dallas, TX; Irene Johnson, president, LeClaire Courts Resident Management Corp., Chicago, IL; and Josephine Velazques, Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program and Children's Home Society, Miami, FL.

To receive the 10 pages of Commission highlights from CRC, members of CRC should send a self-addressed business envelope bearing a 52 cent stamp. Non-CRC members should send the envelope together with a $3 handling charge.

The full report is available from CRC, while copies last, for $10.00 for members of CRC, and 15.00 for non-members.

New Directory of Organizations Now Available

Copies of CRC's new "Parenting International Directory," the fifth edition of its directory, are now available in hard copy (updated annually) and on IBM 5 1/4" and 3 1/2" disks (updated semi-annually). The cost is $12.00 for either format for CRC members, and $15.00 for non-members.

The directory features:

- a state by state listing, in zip code order, of parenting groups within a state;
- a special section that lists national organizations involved in parenting issues;
- a list of abbreviations of terms used in the directory.

Because CRC does a great deal of networking, and constantly updates its data base, the directory can be relied on for accuracy.

The directory can be a valuable resource in making referrals around the country to and from your organization.

Order your copy of the fifth edition now from CRC.

In Need of Legal Help?

If your case is on appeal, and involves a broad legal principle (such as joint custody/shared parenting, parental kidnapping, or the fairness of some domestic relations law or procedure), CRC may be able to file an amicus curiae (Friend of the Court) brief, as we have done in other state appeal court cases.

Attorneys for CRC are interested in handling these cases on a reasonable fee basis. As mentioned above, we can only consider cases on appeal.

For information, contact CRC, 220 I Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Next Conference is April 13-17, 1994

Workshops Sought

If you would like to be considered as a workshop leader at CRC's next conference, please send a brief statement to CRC, stating your name, background, and purpose of the workshop. Please send this to CRC by October 30, 1993.

Awards Time Again

At its next conference, CRC will present the annual Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "healers among Lawyers, judges, and others, and its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques. Nominations should be received by February 15, 1994.

A "healer" might be:

- a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);
- an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

For media awards, possible contenders are:

- best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);
- best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents; or
- best TV series on abuse and false abuse charges.

For active parenting, possible contenders are:

- organizations and individuals that promote active, positive parenting;
- programs that help with family formation and family preservation;
- programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Send "Healer: award nominations to:

Carla A. Goodwin, M.Ed.
Certified Educational Psychologist
920 Washington Street
South Easton, MA 02375
(508) 238-3722

Send "Best in Media" award nominations to:

James Morning, coordinator
CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 629-3310

Send "Active Parenting" nominations to

Brent Sandbak
Texas Children's Rights Coalition
807 Brazos Street, Suite 315
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 499-8272

How To Beat The Tax Man And Help CRC

Tired of having your tax dollar fund programs that are wasteful, senseless and have nothing to do with issues that concern you?

Be your own Chairman of the Budget Committee, direct where your tax money goes. You can:

1. Give money to CRC: get a tax deduction now and benefit a worthy cause;
2. Include CRC in your retirement plan: give property to CRC in a trust and at the same time get an annuity for yourself or members of your family;
3. Give appreciated property to CRC and eliminate the capital gains tax bite;
4. Ask your company to make a donation to CRC next year and reduce the company's tax bill for this year; and
5. Explore many other tax-saving options.

There are many ways the tax law is designed to encourage people like you to give to worthy causes.

For more information about how you can help CRC and yourself too, call or write:

Elina Hum Pratt
Attorney At Law
7845 Brookview Court
Manassas, VA 22110
(703) 690-2844

Elina Hum Pratt is CRC's tax lawyer.

In the Courts

Girl Returned to Natural Parents

In the final act of a 2 1/2 year old battle over the custody of Jessica DeBoer, the child was returned to her natural parents, Cara and Daniel Schmidt, on August 2, 1993.

The highly publicized case involved the courts of Iowa and Michigan, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed on July 31 with the Michigan Supreme Court ruling that the child must be given to the Schmidts.

Jessica was born on Feb. 8, 1991 to Cara Claussen, then unmarried. Two days later, she signed a release allowing the baby to be adopted, and four days later so did the man she had named as the father. The DeBoers filed an adoption petition on Feb. 25. However, on March 8, Miss Clausen filed a petition to stop the adoption, and named Daniel Schmidt, who had never signed a release, as the real father. He immediately took steps to reclaim the child. The biological parents have since married, and the courts have found them to be fit parents.

In a July 31, 1993 editorial, the Washington Post stated that "One can only imagine the anguish each set of parents has endured. But whatever the tugs of the heart, the law provides waiting periods in the adoption process for a reason, and the Schmidts were well within those time periods when they sought to regain custody...the law does not allow a child to be taken from her biological parents against their will unless they have been found unfit. Hard as it is on the adoptive parents, this test has not been met."

Dan Schmidt held his child for the first time about 10 days before the child was turned over to him and his wife. He described in a Washington Times article July 21, 1993 the euphoria of meeting his daughter at the home of the Michigan couple who raised her since birth.

(Asked for comment by Monitor syndicated radio and other media, CRC said efforts should be made to ease the transition for the child, and that just as there was some contact between her and the Schmidt's before the transfer, contact should be maintained by her and the DeBoers after the transfer took place. This would help end the either-or situation that this type of case engenders).

The Kimberly Mays case

A Florida court granted the wishes of a 14 year old girl who was switched at birth with another baby, by cutting off all access to her from her biological parents. The court also set the stage for her adoption by the man who raised her since birth, Robert Mays.

Ernest and Rebecca, who raised a different child from birth, discovered, upon the girl's death at age 9, that she had not been born to them. Blood tests revealed that two babies had been switched at birth, and that Kimberly Mays was their biological child.

Visitation was subsequently arranged between the Twiggs and Kimberly, but after several visits, including one in which Rebecca Twigg asked Kimberly if she could call her by the dead girl's name, Robert Mays ended the visits.

The Twiggs then sued for custody, and Kimberly counter-sued to cut of all access to the Twiggs.

(CRC was quoted in the Washington Post, Long Island Newsday and in a brief appearance on CBS's Nightline, as agreeing that Kimberly should continue to live with the Mays', but that the court went too far in cutting off all access with the Twiggs. Asked what if Kimberly refused visitation, CRC President David L. Levy rejoined, what if she refused to go to school? Visitation could have been supervised, delayed, or otherwise structured, but totally cutting it off also deprives Kimberly, an only child, of contact with the Twiggs' seven other children. Such contact might have been of benefit to all the children when they reached adulthood, said Sonny Burmeister, president of CRC of Georgia, on CNN).

The Gregory K case

A Florida appeals court ruled in August that Gregory K, the boy who sued to terminate his natural mother's parental rights, had no standing to sue; but the court agreed that the mother's rights were properly terminated by the court, because the mother had abandoned the child. The court thus let stand the adoption by George Russ and Russ's wife, and Gregory's change of his name to Shawn Russ.

The Florida appeals court decision that children have no standing to sue in parental termination cases, but that the child had been properly adopted by Russ, parallels the reasoning in a "Friend of the Court" brief CRC filed in the trial court level in the case. CRC did not argue where the 12-year-old boy should live, because we knew Russ was providing a good home for the boy; we only stated that a child should not have to bring a proceeding in his own name to terminate his parents rights.

We had argued that adults—such as state officials, or the foster parents who wanted to adopt the boy, should bring the proceedings.

CRC is concerned that family preservation (parenting) services were not provided to Shawn's natural family (including his two brothers) in Florida, so that the deterioration of Shawn's family life might have been prevented. And thus the family would have had a better shot at working out their problems.

CRC did not file a brief at the appeals court level in the case.

Joint Custody Upgraded in Georgia and Kentucky

Georgia

The Georgia Court of Appeals has created a preference for joint custody where the evidence shows that the parents have shared the parenting of the child during the marriage.

The court's decision was based on three pieces of legislation that the

Continued on page 11

In The Courts

Continued from page 10

Children's Rights of Georgia was instrumental in getting passed: 1) the American Bar Association's joint custody bill that puts joint legal custody, joint physical custody or a combination of those two on equal ground with sole custody, 2) a bill that created gender neutrality, stating that "there shall be no prima facie right of custody in either the father or the mother" and 3) enactment of the statement that accompanied the ABA joint custody bill that said it should be the policy of the state to ensure children of divorce continuing access and active involvement of both parents in the rearing of that child, provided the parents have demonstrated the ability to act in the child's best interests.

In the interests of ARB, a child, Court of Appeals No. A93A0698, 93 FCDR 2632, decided July 2, 1993 Georgia Court of Appeals.

For further information, contact Sonny Burmeister of CRC of Georgia (see address and phone number elsewhere in this issue).

Kentucky

Joint custody must be accorded the "same dignity" as sole custody, and trial courts may not prefer the latter over the former, the Kentucky Supreme Court has declared.

The court's pronouncement came in response to what it saw as confusion about trial courts following a Kentucky law enacted 13 years ago that gave the courts the power to grant joint custody.

In fleshing out a standard to be used in making a custody determination, the court made clear that although a "cooperative spirit" between parents is not a condition precedent to a joint custody award, a judge should assess the likelihood of future cooperation (even if such cooperation must be "assist(ed)" through use of a court's contempt power and its power to modify custody.

The court also said that judges are empowered to make such "orders as are necessary to properly effectuate joint custody," but stopped short of agreeing with a recent appellate court suggestion that a judge should consider joint custody first. One judge disagreed with the court's more favorable view of joint custody.

Squires v. Squires, Ky SupCT. No. 92-SC-289-DG, 4/22/93.

Rights of Unwed Father

In a major family law change, the Texas Supreme Court has recognized a biological father's constitutional right to establish paternity even when the child is born to a married couple.

In the case, the court overturned the longstanding "marital presumption" in Texas that had prevented some biological fathers from suing for their parental rights. J.W.T. was conceived while the child's mother and husband were separated.

The biological father, identified as Larry G., had helped the mother pay for prenatal care before she and her estranged husband reconciled and dismissed their divorce

action. A paternity test showed a 99.4 percent probability that Larry was J.W.T.'s biological father.

Justice Doggett wrote that the trial court's denial of Larry's standing to sue violated the due course of law guarantee contained in article 1, section 19 of the Texas Constitution.

Doggett discussed social changes, such as divorce and single parents, that have diminished the social stigma of illegitimacy. "...the focus should more properly be directed toward what is best for the child—it may be in (the) best interest of the child to allow development of a relationship with the natural father and it may not," said Doggett.

The 7-2 majority said the court should consider a father's actions. "We thus believe that a father's interest in establishing a relationship with his biological child is constitutionally protected when accompanied by the father's early and unqualified acceptance of parental duties."In the Interest of J.W.T., No. D-1742, decided June 30, 1993.

(The Texas decision is in accord with the 1988 Michael H. case, in which the U.S. Supreme Court decided 5-4 that an unwed father has the right to a paternity hearing before his rights can be terminated).

Mother's Income Imputed

A mother who quit her $54,000 per year job to stay home with her children may not elude paying child support to their father after the children were placed in his custody when the mother decided to accompany her new husband on his overseas military assignment, the Virginia Court of Appeal has ruled.

Overturning the court below, which had found insufficient evidence to impute income, the high court said that when a parent leaves his or her employment, the burden is upon that parent to show that the decision to do so was not voluntary;, the unilateral decision to stay home and care for a child is not sufficient, standing along, to establish that unemployment is involuntary, if child care services are available.

Noting that another reason given by the mother for quitting her job was the desire to stay home with the child she and her new husband were expecting, the court said that if the roles in this case had been reversed and the father chose to leave his job to stay at home to care for the children of another marriage it would not, without greater reason, allow him to terminate his support obligation for other children. "The mother should be held to a like standard," the court ruled.

Brody v. Brody (Streeter); VA CtApp. No. 0847-92-4, 6/29/93.

Concealment of Child Bars Support

A trial court erred in refusing to consider an obligor's claim that his ex-wife's "active concealment" of their son until after the child reached majority is a viable defense to her arrearages petition, the California Court of Appeals, First District, has held.

The court distinguished between the prevailing view that a custodial parent cannot be estopped from collecting arrearages even upon a showing of that parent's interference with

Continued on page 13

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or person to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives; S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or to express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views. The capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the offices of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). Although this is a 24-hour switchboard, and can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress, and even sometimes names of staff night and day, the switchboard can only connect with you with an office during normal business hours. You may also wish to contact the Congressmembers' branch office in your district for information.

As part of the Clinton Administration budget bill, passed by a narrow margin in August, Congress approved the following child support provisions, to:

- permit the non-custodial parent to submit claims for covered health insurance services without the approval of the non-custodial parent, and to make payment on claims directly to the custodial parent, the provider or the state agency;
- set up a hospital-based program for the voluntary acknowledgement of paternity during a period immediately preceding or following the birth of a child.

(Although CRC favors paternity establishment, whether or not a gender-based custody system is created will depend on the forms adopted in each state between now and March 31, 1994, when this hospital-based paternity law takes effect. Laurie Casey, CRC policy analyst, has developed gender-balanced forms. Obtain a copy from her to introduce in your state. Laurie may be reached at P.O. 81, Moriah Center, NY 12961, phone (518) 942-3366. Send $5 for postage and handling).

S. 689, the comprehensive "Bradley bill" (named for its primary sponsor, Sen. Bill Bradley, D-NJ), would make major changes in financial child support enforcement (see page 1 story).

H.R. 454, which affects jurisdiction for child support cases (see page 1 story).

H.R. 1600, Interstate Child Support Enforcement Act, would authorize the courts of each state to determine their jurisdiction to establish, enforce, and modify child support orders. Introduced by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ), referred to Consumer Credit and Insurance Subcommittee of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8872.

H.R. 915, would, in regard to child support, deny business and professional licenses to obligors, provide for credit bureau reporting. Introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-CO, referred to Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8951.

(When Congresswoman Schroeder was chairman of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, she wrote to CRC members that she wanted to hold hearings that would focus on emotional as well as financial support, but she never held such a hearing, and her bill only addresses financial child support question. All House Select Committees, including Ms. Schroeder's committee, were abolished by the House early in 1993).

S. 967, to provide for the Internal Revenue Service to collect financial child support. Introduced by Sen. Richard Shelby (D-AL). Referred to Senate Finance Committee, (202) 224-4515.

S. 922 would authorize only the state where the child is living to modify a child support order. Introduced by Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), referred to Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice of House Judiciary Committee (202) 224-5225. A similar bill, S. 532, has been introduced by Sen. Peter Domenici, referred to Subcommittee on Administrative

Practice of Judiciary Committee (202) 224-5225.

S. 596, the comprehensive "Rockefeller bill" (named for its primary sponsor, Sen. John J. Rockefeller, D-WV), this family preservation and child protection reform act would provide funds to provide services to help prevent abuse, neglect and family disintegration; would fund intensive family preservation programs designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain with their families (including adoptive families). Referred to Finance Committee, (202) 224-4515.

S. 561, Child and Family Services and Law Enforcement Partnership Act, designed to prevent community violence by facilitating interaction between child and family service organizations, law enforcement agencies, local educational agencies, and other community organizations, ways to help prevent violence, and to provide services to those who have witnessed violence. Sponsored by Sen. Chris Dodd, referred to Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism of Committee on Labor and Human Resources, (202) 224-5375.

S. 434, to amend the IRS code to allow taxpayers a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments and to require the inclusion in income of child support payments which a taxpayer does not pay—thus taxing the obligor twice (The obligor already pays tax on income that should have been allocated for child support, and this bill would tax him or her again for those portions not paid).

H.R. 555, to ensure that any overdue child support obligations are reported to credit reporting agencies.

Congresswoman Lowey

H.R. 520, the Link-Up for Learning Act, would provide programs for at-risk youth, with the goal of improving their educational performance. Sponsored by Nita Lowey, D-CA. (202) 225-6506.

S.6, Sexual Assault Prevention Act of 1993, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole, designed to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women. This bill was absorbed in part by S. 11, "The Biden Bill," the Violence Against Women Act, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Biden bill is expected to pass the Senate, and then be considered by the House. Designed to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women, and to establish a national task force on violence against women. Prior to passage, a provision of the bill was dropped that would have expressed the sense of Congress that spouse abusers not attain joint custody of children, but see S. 8 and H.R. 688, which contain such provisions. Congress passed a similar joint custody resolution several years ago sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) (if Congress is going to enter the custody area, traditionally reserved for the states, it should recommend joint custody—shared parenting—as a first option for fit parents, especially as the Census Bureau reports that parents with joint custody and visitation pay far more in financial support than parents without joint custody and visitation. Congress is expected to consider strong financial support legislation this year, and so statistics on who pays and why is important for Congress to factor into its deliberations).

S. 8, to control and prevent crime. Similar to S.6 above. Section 2262(2) of the bills says

"joint custody forced upon hostile parents can create a damaging psychological environment for a child," while Section 2262(5) says "It is the sense of the Congress that, for the purpose of determining child custody, evidence establishing that a parent engages in physical abuse of a spouse should create a statutory presumption that it is detrimental to the child to be placed in the custody of the abusive spouse." The bill would create a National Task Force on Violence Against Women. Introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), referred to Judiciary Committee, (202) 224-5225.

H.R. 688, similar to S. 8 (above). Introduced by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), referred to the subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice of House Judiciary Committee, (202) 226-2406.

Gramm

S. 254, to ensure that any peace dividend is invested in America's families and deficit reduction. Sec. 606A states "The Secretary of the Treasury shall increase the personal exemption for individuals as determined under section 151 of the IRS code of 1986..." Introduced by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), referred to Committee on Budget (202) 224-0642 and Committee on Governmental Affairs (202) 224-4751.

H.R. 773, the "Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act of 1993" would amend the IRS code and the Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to state enforcement of financial child support and to require the IRS to collect support through wage withholding. Introduced by Rep. Hyde (R-IL), referred to subcommittee on Human Resources (202) 225-1025 of the House Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 435, to provide tax relief for families, by providing an additional $600 tax deduction for a family for each child under age 19. No provision for who would be eligible for this increased deduction in cases of divorce. Introduced by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), referred to Committee on Ways and Means, (202) 225-3625.

H.R. 1800, to provide set-aside programs for pregnant teenagers that include health care, job training, mentor support and counselling services. Introduced by Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA), referred to Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Educational Committee of Committee on Education and Labor, (202) 225-4368.

S. 870, to provide for neutral drop-off and pick-up sites for visitation. The purpose of the bill is laudatory—to prevent problems for children during access, but the introductory language is punitive against non-custodial parents, assigning blame to them for post-divorce conflicts. CRC has informed Senator Wellstone of the work of Dick Woods, who is administering a $300,000 federal grant that includes neutral drop off and pick-up procedures. Referred to Labor and Human Resources Committee, (202) 224-5375.

H.R. 741, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to provide welfare families with the education, training, job search, and work experience to prepare them to leave welfare within two years, to authorize states to conduct demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of policies designed to help people leave welfare and increase their financial security. Introduced by Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, (202) 225-7054.

H.R. 619, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to assure the completeness and accuracy of consumer information maintained by credit reporting agencies. Included in credit reporting agencies are state and local financial child support enforcement agencies. Introduced by Rep. McCandless (R-CA), referred to subcommittee on Consumer Credit Service of Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (202) 225-8872.

H.R. 522, to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline. Sec 2(2) states that the hotline shall provide "victims of domestic violence needed access to resources which will refer such victims and their children to safe homes and shelters." Introduced by Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD), and referred to Select Education and Civil Rights Subcommittee, (202) 226-7532.

H.R. 455, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove the barriers and disincentives in the program of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) that prevent recipients of such aid from moving toward self-sufficiency. Introduced by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), referred to Subcommittee on Human Resources of Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625. This bill is expected to be incorporated into the forthcoming Welfare Reform bill.

Burton

H. Res. 236, declares that "whereas the current breakdown of the traditional American family is a major factor contributing to the rise of crime, teen pregnancy, educational failure, substance abuse, and suicide among our nation's youth....(and) whereas it is it interest of society and government to adopt policies that help families stay together by strengthing and sustaining fathers and mothers in fulfilling their parental roles," organizations and governmental bodies are urged to recognize July 28, 1994 as Parents Day. Introduced by Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), referred to House Post Office and Civil Service Committee (202) 225-4054.

MORE NEWS ABOUR CRC'S 7th NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN."

In The Courts

Continued from page 11

visitation rights. However, it said, a "valid" distinction has been recognized between "mere interference" with visitation and the "deliberate 'sabotage' of visitation rights by concealment of the child."

Saying the active concealment of a child is an implicit election to raise the child without financial assistance from the non-custodial parent, the court said it saw no reason to reward a custodial parent with a belated award of support arrearages that will be of no tangible benefit to the child. Furthermore, the court said, the child had been denied the benefits inherent in a congenial parent-child relationship. Damico v. Damico; Calif CtApp 1stDist. No. A056426, 4/28/93.

The second, fifth, and sixth cases above are adapted courtesy of the Bureau of National Affairs.

Giving to CRC

If you haven't already included a bequest to the Children's Rights Council in your will, you should consider doing so.

There is a wonderful way to continue giving beyond your lifetime. (Numerous officers and friends of CRC have already included CRC as a beneficiary in their will.) This is not only good tax-planning, but also serves as a tremendous inspiration to others. It will ensure that the issues so important to you and CRC will continue to get the attention they deserve.

For more information, call or write:

Elina Hum Pratt
Attorney At Law
7845 Brookview Court
Manassas, VA 22110

(703) 690-2844

Elina Hum Pratt is CRC's tax lawyer.

Around the Country

The Families First Program in Cobb County, GA

The Families First Program in Cobb County, Georgia, has received national attention (in The New York Times, on CBS TV's show "20/20" and other media), since the program was launched in October 1988.

By court order, all parents involved in a divorce action or a modification action where children are involved, are required to attend the four-hour seminar.

In the seminar, counselors inform parents about the divorce process, how to tell the children, what reactions to expect, and how to develop a "co-parenting" role with your soon-to-be former spouse. The "do's and dont's" are explored and subjects such as access (visitation), types of custody and financial child support are highlighted.

Spouses who are extremely angry at each other can attend separate seminars and the court system will provide notification if they sign-up for the same time and day.

Families First has trained between 125 to 150 court personnel and family service agency personnel on how to conduct the seminars.

More than 6,000 Cobb County parents have attended the program, and 94% of them rate the program as helpful to extremely helpful, according to Nancy Parkhouse, deputy director of Cobb County's Juvenile Court, who originated the program after obtaining information on a similar program for divorcing parents in Kansas.

According to Parkhouse and Beverly Bradburn-Stern, who heads the seminar program, the main message is co-parenting. "Parents may dissolve their marriage but they will always be the parents of their child," stated Stern. In fact, the message on the reservation card sent out by the Cobb Superior Court Administration says: "Families Don't End...Marriages Do!"

According to the manual developed for this program by Families First, Divorcing parents, at a time when their children are in great need of them, are not fully available for emotional support."This may result in their spending less time and providing less discipline. It is precisely this disruption in parenting that hurts children far more than the divorce itself.

"The program attempts to help parents to recognize 'places' where they or their children can get stuck, to explore avenues to resolve conflicts and to provide information on sources of support," says Parkhurst. "We want to provide hope, perpetuate co-parenting and get parents to seek the best interest of the child. As a side benefit, we hope to reduce litigation."

"The program has addressed the subject of overnight visitation for children under the age of three with the non-custodial parent," says Bradburn-Stern, who heads the seminar program. "Overnight visitation by the infant or toddler is very appropriate where a bond with the non-custodial parent was already present prior to the separation." However, where the non-custodial parent had not been actively involved in the parenting and the nurturing prior to the separation, then "overnight visitation should be limited until that bond is developed," says Bradburn-Stern.

The seminar changed its name several months ago from "Divorcing Parent Seminar" to "Children Cope With Divorce."

"We wanted the title to reflect the real concentration of the program—helping the children to cope and successfully adjust to the divorce of their parents," says Bradburn-Stern.

Bradburn-Stern credits Parkhouse for having the vision, initiative and determination to get the ball rolling. "Nancy believed that something had to be done to protect children in custody battles," said Stern.

At least seven communities have adopted similar programs for divorcing parents. Those include Savannah, GA; Indianapolis, IN, St. Petersburg, FL, Marion, OH: LaPorte, IN, Elkhart, IN, and Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Adapted from "Voices For Children," a publication of the Children's Rights Council of Georgia, March, 1993.

(Note: CRC gave an award several years ago to the originators of the similar program in Wyandotte County, KS, entitled "Sensible Approach to Divorce (SAD)." Johnson County, Kansas, also provides a SAD-type program in its county.)

Stay-At-Home Moms Gain in Popularity

Stay-at-Home Moms are fashionable again in many communities," The Wall Street Journal reported July 23, 1993.

"Stay-at-home mothers were the norm...in the 1950's and 1960's. But by the 1980's, as women made gains in the work force, the housewife led into disrepute. Stay-at-home motherhood was viewed by some professionals as a ghetto of sorts for women who couldn't cut it at the office. For some, "what do you do?" became a dreaded question and "just a housewife" a pejorative word.

Today, with more than 51% of women in the work force, stay-at-home motherhood is becoming fashionable again in some circles, partly because it a luxury that so few families can afford—the equivalent of, say, a BMW a decade ago.

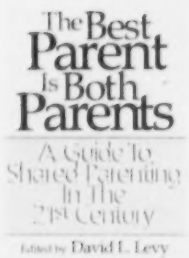
But as the pendulum swings back and full-time mothers gain respect, some employed mothers fear they are losing it—and are being viewed as bad mothers, besides, said the Wall St. Journal article.

The signs of full-time mothering's renaissance are legion. A license plate on a Cincinnati sedan proudly proclaims: MOM INC. "

The I'm just a housewife with apologies is going away," says

Ann Charman, one of the Yankelovich Partners, a consulting firm that studies societal changes. Women who stayed home used to see it as "just a job," she says. Now they see themselves as "CEO of the household."

Inside CRC



CRC's first book, "The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century," is now available in bookstores around the country.

The publisher of the book is Hampton Roads Publishing Company in Norfolk, Virginia, a nationally known publisher.

The 157-page book, ISBN 1-878901-56-7, contains contributions from CRC writers and researchers.

Although you can order a copy of the book from CRC or from the publisher, we prefer that you order a copy from your local bookstore. The advantages of ordering from your bookstore are:

- the price of the book is the same ($9.95), but you will save shipping charges;
- ordering from a bookstore alerts the bookstore to the fact that there is interest in this book. If you tell the bookstore of your interest in CRC, and ask them to stock the book, they will likely order 5 or 10 copies or more.
- having those extra copies on the bookshelves will attract other potential book buyers who are browsing in the stores.

CRC is not interested so much in royalties from the book (although they are welcome) as in getting our—and your ideas—out to a wider audience.

Even if people don't buy the book, many of them will see the title "The Best Parent is Both Parents" on the bookshelves, and, we hope, be affected positively by those words.

Some CRC activists, including Brent Sandbak of Texas, have called numerous bookstores, stating that they are members of CRC, and asking the bookstores to carry the book.

The bookstores are responding favorably, said Sandbak and others.

The CRC book, an update of several CRC reports, contains substantial new information, and has been two years in the making. "We hope to reach a market for CRC's ideas that has to date been untapped," said CRC President David L. Levy, the editor of the book.

One reader of the book was surprised to find that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 25 percent of fathers subject to court-ordered child support do not pay any support. "Although I wish the figure were zero, the government and the media always present the non-compliance figure as much higher," said Joyce Wright of Albuquerque, New Mexico, in a letter to CRC.

Contributors to the book include CRC writers and researchers Anna Keller, Elliott H. Diamond and Alexander Hillary II, as well as Elizabeth McGonagle, originator of the "Banana Splits" school-based program in upstate New York.

The book contains much factual data, and extensive endnotes.

Information about CRC, as well as the names, addresses and phone numbers of CRC chapters are listed in the back of the book. The names of CRC advisors are also provided.

CRC Office Staff

Lynn Nesbitt, who works full time at the CRC office, now has an assistant, LaJuan Sykes. If you call the CRC office at (202) 547-6227, you will find either Lynn or LaJuan pleasant to talk to.

CRC Advisor Farrell Publishes Book

"The Myth of Male Power: Why Men are the Disposable Sex," by CRC Advisor Warren Farrell, was published in July, 1993 by Simon & Schuster. The book gives statistics on men and women with regards to health, military life, and crime, and mentions that 85% of single parent homes are headed by women, thus disposing of men as active, caring parents. (Note: CRC notes that the current system also disposes of mothers and grandparents, i.e. the 2 million non-custodial mothers and many adversely affected grandparents, while the greatest losers from the custody system are, of course, the children).

CRC Advisor Stabenow Running for Governor

Debbie Stabenow, a long-tine CRC advisor, is running for governor in Michigan. The election is in November, 1994. Stabenow, a Democratic Michigan state senator, was the driving force behind the change in Michigan law that provided for a balanced "support and visitation" bill in the early 1980's.

Michigan is the only state CRC is aware of that treats visitation as important as financial support by linking the two together in the title of the same bill, "and this is largely the effort of Debbie Stabenow," said CRC President David L. Levy.

Stabenow, who spoke at CRC's 1992 conference, also contributed to CRC's efforts to get Congress to authorize the access (visitation) grants in the 1988 Family Support Act.

She endorsed the program in a letter (which also appears in CRC's Report R105A) that the reason Michigan has led the country in the rate of child support collections is because of Michigan's "Friend of the Court" and balanced family law legislation.

"If there was one thing that convinced Congress to authorize $8 billion for access visitation grants in the 1988 Family Support Act, it was the link between child access and financial support," said Levy.

Michigan collects $8.33 in support for every dollar spent to collect, a figure which has consistently led the rest of the states, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services (HHS).

Administrative officers in all 67 Michigan counties, who are called "Friends of the Court", are supposed to administratively investigate and resolve not just support arrearages, but also visitation complaints. Although there are complaints that in many counties, visitation problems are not treated seriously by the Friends of the Court, Michigan at least has the distinction of having an administrative statewide system in place, said Levy. Michigan's shortcomings, which includes insulating the friend of the court from accountability or removal, are being studied by other states, including Texas, which is working to set up its own "Friend of the Court" system with more accountability by its administrative officers.

CRC, as a non-profit organization, cannot endorse candidates for public office, but individuals are free to work on campaigns and to make contributions.

Stabenow may be reached at the State House, Lansing, Michigan.

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is now a partner, with his name in the title of the newly-revamped law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT. 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Computer Technology Services

Steve Chan, who has helped CRC with its computer system, is knowledgeable in computer technology, and has also served as an expert witness in computer procurement cases on the federal level. Mr. Chan is at Uniprime Systems, Inc., P.O.Box 3247, Baltimore, MD. 21228, phone (410) 747-7510.

Media Contacts

CRC's National office in Washington, D.C. is fielding about 10 media inquiries a week. Press people often ask for statistics and facts. Within the past few months, CRC representatives have been contacted by TV and print publications including CNN, the New York Times, Focus on the Family, Redbook magazine, The St. Louis Post Dispatch, The Toledo (Ohio) Blade, and the Winston-Salem (NC) Journal. The Journal, in an August 1, 1993 article, quoted CRC as saying that about 172,000 of the 6,600,000 children whose access (visitation) is interfered with by custodial parents, are in North Carolina. CRC urges child advocates in other states to get local media to quote the statistics for their state. See state-by-state breakdown elsewhere in this issue. CRC was quoted in a front page article on mediation that appeared in the Washington Post on July 12, 1993, and in various other publications. CRC also receives frequent calls from individuals writing magazine articles and books.

TV Violence

The plethora of sex and violence on TV is "no accident", but has been "purposely injected into the mainstream of American television," according to a lengthy Outlook article in the Washington Post, August 1, 1993, by David Levy (no relation to the president of CRC). Levy, who is an unofficial advisor to CRC, is executive director of the Caucus for Producers, Writers and Directors and president of Wilshire Productions Inc. in Los Angeles. Levy, former NBC officer in charge of network programming, talks about the damage to children that has occurred over the years from excessive sex and violence—damage he tried to warn Congress and the networks about 30 years ago—and the need to limit violence and sex on TV today. The article provides a comprehensive overview of the increase in sex and violence in TV over the past 30 years.

Volunteers, Materials, Services Needed

Are you interested in advocacy, office work, public relations, fund-raising, membership development, tax issues affecting the family, research or writing? If so, please write to CRC. We will send you information.

If you donate materials, such as computers, typewriters, fax machines, or telephones, we can use them at our national office in Washington, D.C. or give them to our chapters around the country. And you can obtain a tax deduction for your gift.

If you know of an accounting firm that does audits for non-profit groups, and the firm would consider doing an annual audit for CRC pro bono or at a reduced rate, please let us know. We currently pay a substantial amount of money for our annual audit and IRS Form 990.

CRC is Number 1513 in Charity Campaign

If you work for the federal government, or know someone who does, please designate—or have your friends designate—the Children's Rights Council in the Combined Federal Campaign, which is now underway at all government offices, post offices, and military bases.

CRC is Number 1513 in the Children's Charities of America section of the annual federal government charity drive, the same number we had last year.

CRC only receives funds that contributors actually designate to CRC.

CRC is also listed as number 1513 in the San Francisco, California Bay area workplace campaign, for those who wish to contribute to CRC.

CRC has sent thank you letters to everyone who contributed to us last year, and who permitted their names to be given to us. For those contributors who preferred anonymity, we also say thank you!

Chapter News

California

A bill that would allow the custodial parent to move out of state without notifying the courts or the non-custodial parent was recently defeated in a Senate subcommittee in Sacramento, according to Lou Ann Bassan, CRC coordinator in California.

The current requirement in California requires 45 days notice to the court and to the non-custodial parent prior to a parent's planned permanent removal of a child from the state. This allows the other parent an opportunity to oppose the move, or support it, perhaps by working out new financial or parenting time (visitation) arrangements with the other parent.

Another bill which would require support financial child support until a child reaches age 21 or goes to college was recently defeated in a Senate subcommittee. Currently, California requires child support until a child reaches age 18.

California is a bellwether state in family law legislation, so what happens there often has a strong effect on the rest of the country (but see below regarding college education requirements in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire).

The two bills were opposed by Jim Cook, president of the Joint Custody Association in Los Angeles, CRC of California, COPS (Coalition of Parent Support), PACT (Parents and Children Together), and FREE (Fathers Rights and Equality Exchange), and other groups, who held a rally in Sacramento in February 1993 attended by 300 people. Members of the group visited legislators, testified before legislative committees, wrote letters and made phone calls.

Bassan said leaders of the groups have formed the Executive Committee for Family Law Reform of Northern California, a coalition designed to plan future strategy.

(CRC encourages parental support for a child's college education, and seeks research on whether, if a state helps to assure close and continuing contact between a child and the non-custodial parent, contributions from that parent to the child's college education can be induced voluntarily).

Virginia

Virginia has passed a "friendly parent" provision to its custody law, and a requirement of 30 days notice in writing before the intended move of a custodial parent from the state.

The provisions are amendments to 20-107.2 of the Code of Virginia.

The "friendly parent" provision states that as a factor in determining who should get custody, the court shall consider "The propensity of each parent to allow the child contact with the other parent, and the relative willingness and demonstrated ability of each parent to maintain a close and continuing relationship with the child."

The "friendly parent" provision is similar to provisions in California and other states that statutorily allow a court to consider, in granting custody, which parent is most likely to encourage frequent and continuing contact with the other parent.

A number of states also have requirements of 30 to 60 days notice to the court and the other parent prior to a parent moving from the state with the child. The purpose of such a provision is to give parents time to object to the move, or to work out revised access and/or financial arrangements regarding the child, in an orderly way.

The Virginia notice requirement states that "In any proceeding involving custody or visitation, the court shall include as a condition of any custody or visitation order a requirement that thirty days' advance written notice be given to the court and the other party by any party intending to relocate. The court may require that the notice be in such form and contain such information as it deems proper and necessary under the circumstances of the cases."

Another new provision in the Virginia statute provides that the court may consider the reasonable preference of the child, if the court deems the child to be of reasonable intelligence, understanding, age and experience to express such a preference.

CRC's Virginia coordinator, Cindy Lewis of Norfolk, who has been appointed to the Study Group for the Virginia Commission on Youth to study custody and visitation, praised the efforts of many men and women in Virginia to get the above changes into law.

In another development, Murray Steinberg of the Richmond, VA. CRC chapter, has been appointed to the Virginia Child Support Enforcement Advisory Committee. He joins Paul Robinson of northern Virginia CRC, who was already a member of the committee.

Texas

Health Care Costs to be Shared

A new amendment to the Texas code provides for a sharing of the costs of unreimbursed medical expenses for the child. Previously, Texas courts have been splitting the unreimbursed medical costs 50-50, with only the non-custodial parent's portion payable as financial child support. There was no court requirement that the custodial parent pay his or her part of the medical costs.

The provision, added to Sec. 14.053(d) of the Family Code states that "As additional child support the court shall allocate between the parties, according to the parties' circumstances, the reasonable and necessary health care expenses of a child that are not reimbursed by health insurance."

Kids whose parents have divorced, who would like to give advice to other kids whose parents are divorcing, are invited to write to author Gayle Kimball for a questionnaire to complete. The title of her book in progress is "How to Survive Your Parents' Divorce." You may write to her at 42 Ranchito Way, Chico, CA 95928.

New Chapters Formed

CRC is pleased to announce that CRC chapters are being developed in two additional states. They are Tennessee and Minnesota. David Courson, who is a real estate agent in Nashville, is CRC's new coordinator in Tennessee. David attended CRC's 1992 conference.

Bruce Kaskubar, who is a computer technology analyst with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, is CRC's new coordinator in Minnesota.

CRC's new Florida state coordinator is Kris Kline, author of "For the Sake of the Children," a book published by Prima Publishers (distributed by St. Martin's Press), that advises parents on how to co-operate after divorce. Kris, who lives in the Tampa area, has spoken at CRC conferences. She and her husband Stephen have operated an advertising communications company for 20 years.

Piotr Blass, who had been CRC's coordinator in Florida, will continue to head a chapter in south Florida. Blass, who along with longtime CRC member Roger Gay, has numerous European contacts, will, along with Gay, develop CRC contacts in Europe and Israel. Blass lives in Boynton Beach, near Miami, Florida. Gay, who lived previously in Texas, has spent the past several months in England, and will soon move to Sweden, where his son is living with his son's mother.

CRC seeks to form chapters throughout the U.S., in order to assist the citizens of each state with that state's unique laws. Custody reform is primarily handled on the state level, although Congress is entering the field more and more, and what happens in Congress affects all the states.

If you are part of a national network, you will generally get a better reception than a group that is limited to one state or community.

Coordinators of our state chapters maintain contact by mail exchange and cross-country telephone conference calls between the chapters and CRC national. In this way, chapters can benefit from each other and do not have to constantly "re-invent the wheel".

Chapters exist in 25 states.

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community, write to CRC for our Affiliation Booklet.

This 37-page booklet explains everything you want to know about affiliation.

After reviewing the booklet, write to Eric Anderson of Texas, CRC chapter coordinator, for further information. Eric's address is listed below.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
P.O. Box 27418
Houston, TX 77227-7418
phone (713) 840-1626
Jennifer Isham, president

Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR)
137 Larkin Street
Madison, WI 53705
phone (608) 238-8751
Ethel Dunn, executive director

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 212
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505
(402) 477-7837
Judith Bauersfeld, president

CRC Chapters

Alabama
CRC of Alabama
454 Morphy Avenue
Fairhope, AL 36532
E.D. Wilson, coordinator
(205) 928-0464

Alaska
Alaska Dads and Moms
2225 Arctic Boulevard, Ste 303
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 274-7358
Gary Maxwell, state coordinator

Alaska Family Support Group
P.O. Box 111691
Anchorage, AK 99511-1691
(907) 344-7707
Jim Arnesen, president

Second Wives and Children
P.O. Box 875731
Wasilla, AK 99687-5731
(907) 376-1445
Tracy Driskill, president

CRC of California and San Francisco chapter
2547 Noriega Street, Suite 333
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 753-8315
Lou Ann Bassan, state coordinator

CRC of California
Sacramento chapter
P.O. Box 60811
Sacramento, CA 95860
Patricia Gehlen, chair
(916) 635-2590

Colorado
CRC of Colorado
P.O. Box 280084
Lakewood, CO 80228
(303) 980-6903
Valerie Ozsu, state coordinator

Delaware
CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 875-7353
Bill Barrell, coordinator
(302) 734-8522
James Morning, president

Florida
CRC of Florida
355 Shore Drive
Ellenton, FL 34222
(813) 722-8688
Kris Kline, coordinator

CRC of Florida,
southern Florida chapter
113 W. Tara Lakes Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33436
(407) 395-5512
Piotr Blass, chair

Georgia
CRC of Georgia
P.O. Box 70486
Marietta, GA 30007-0486
(404) 928-7110
Sonny Burmeister, coordinator

Illinois
CRC of Illinois
P.O. Box 786
Pekin, IL 61555-0786
(309) 697-3235
Ann Danner, coordinator

Indiana
CRC of Indiana
2625 N. Meridian, Suite 202
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 925-5433
David Dinn, coordinator

Iowa
Fathers for Equal Rights, Inc.
3623 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 277-8789
Dick Woods, coordinator

Professionals Serving Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents
(515) 263-9511
Eric Borseth, J.D.

Kansas/Missouri
CRC of Kansas/Missouri
5516 Mission Road
Fairway, KS 66205-2721
(913) 831-0190
Roger Doeren, coordinator

Kentucky
CRC of Kentucky
11980 Highway 144
Philpott, KY 42366
(502) 684-6100
Tracy Cox, coordinator

Maryland
CRC of Maryland
417 Pershing Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 588-0262
Harvey Walden, coordinator

Massachusetts
Sheila Sands, coordinator (413) 737-4900
Sue Parker (617) 323-6028, assistant coordinator

Concerned Fathers of Massachusetts, Inc.
P.O. Box 2768
Springfield, MA 01101-2768
George Kelly, president
(413) 736-7432

Michigan
CRC of Michigan
P.O. Box 416
Lawton, MI 49065-0416
(616) 247-5868
Heather Rowlson, coordinator

Minnesota
CRC of Minnesota
5905 Chateau Road N.W.
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 289-6221
Bruce Kaskubar, coordinator

New Jersey
New Jersey Council for Children's Rights (NJCCR)
P.O. Box 615
Wayne, NJ 07470-0615
(201) 694-9323
Erich Sturn, president

New York
CRC of New York
231 Main Street, Suite 1
Vestal, NY 13805
(607) 785-9338
Kim Boedecker-Frey, coordinator

Ohio
9681 Harding Hwy E
Galion, OH 44833
(419) 845-2572
Kathy Clark, coordinator

Pennsylvania
P.E.A.C.E. (Parents Equality and Children's Equality)
20 1/2 S. Bradford St.
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 435-3008
Gary Onuschak, coordinator

Texas
Children's Rights Council of Texas
P.O. Box 12961
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 499-TCRC
Eric Anderson, coordinator and nationwide chapter coordinator

Tennessee
CRC of Tennessee
5914 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37209
David Courson, coordinator
(615) 952-2498

Vermont
Vermonters for Strong Families
RR 1, Box 284A
E. Montpelier, VT 05651
(802) 436-3089
Fred Tubbs, coordinator

Virginia
CRC of Virginia, Tidewater chapter
3029 Yakima Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
(804) 463-KIDS
Michael Ewing, president
Cindy Lewis, state coordinator

CRC of Virginia, Richmond chapter
8035 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 740-9889
Murray Steinberg, president

Fathers United for Equal Rights and Women's Coalition
P.O. Box 1323
Arlington, VA 22210-1323
(703) 451-8580
Paul Robinson, president

Here are *Some* ***SPECIAL ADDITIONS*** to the

Children's Rights Council

1993 CATALOG OF RESOURCES

for parents and professionals

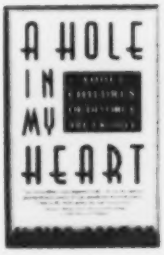
The CRC catalog lists more than sixty books, written reports, audio-cassettes, model bills, and gifts for children. Members can receive additional free copies of the catalog by contacting CRC. Non-members can order one for $1.00. Write: CRC, 220 I Str., NE, Suite 230, Washington, D.C. 20002-4362.

Discount: CRC Members - 10% ea. book
- 20% other items

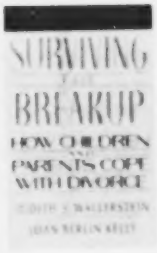
Send all book orders to: CRC Books, P.O. Box 5568 Friendship Station, Wash., DC 20016. Add $2 for 1st book, 50¢ each additional book for shipping and handling.

Some Special Additions *and* Some Books Currently Listed:

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. The PAS occurs when one parent denigrates the other parent, and gets the child to join in the denigration. Gardner, a national expert on the PAS, describes the disorder and recommends treatment. 1992 publishing of this material as a separate book for the first time. **BKA-803 -- 348 pg. HB $30.00.**



A Hole In My Heart: Adult Children of Divorce Speak Out, by Claire Berman. Enables people to understand they are not alone, and helps spouses and loved ones better understand their mates. **BKM-505 -- 280 pg. SB $8.00.**



Surviving The Breakup, by Joan Berlin Kelly, Ph.D. and Judith S. Wallerstein, Ph.D. A longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on children. **BKP-210 -- 340 pg. SB $14.00.**

For The Sake Of The Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, Ph.D. Insights and advice on how parents can cooperate after divorce. **BKP-211 -- 220 pg. HB $17.95.**

True And False Allegations Of Child Sexual Abuse, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. Child sexual abuse cases are burgeoning. Gardner provides analysis, evaluated criteria and recommendations necessary to better differentiate between true and false allegations. His proposals could result in better resolution of cases. **BKA-807 - 748 pg. HB $45.00.**

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz. **BKK-104 -- 16 pg. SB $4.95.**

The Dynamics Of Divorce, by Florence W. Kaslow, Ph.D. and Lita Linzer Schwartz, Ph.D. **BKP-207 -- 329 pg. HB $35.00.**

Divorce Busting, by Michele Weiner-Davis. **BKE-610 -- 252 pg. SB $11.00.**

Sudden Endings, by Madeline Bennett, **BKP-214 -- 280 pg. $4.00.**

The Joint Custody Handbook - Creating Arrangements That Work, by Miriam Galper Cohen. **BKE-610 -- 203 pg. SB $10.95.**

Divorce Book For Parents, by Vicki Lansky. **BKP-203 -- 254 pg. HB $18.95, SB $4.50.**

The Handbook Of Divorce Mediation, by Lenard Marlow, J.D. and S. Richard Sauber, Ph.D. **BKE-604 — 506 pg. HB $65.00.**

The Custody Revolution - The Father Factor And The Motherhood Mystique, by Richard A. Warshak, Ph.D. **BKE-607 - 272 pg. HB $21.00.**

Fathers Rights - The Sourcebook For Dealing With The Child Support System, by Jon Conine. **BKP-406 — 220 pg. HB $17.95.**

Mothers Without Custody, by Geoffrey Grief. **BKE-609 -- 290 pg. SB $11.00.**

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D. **BKP-202 — 270 pg. SB $8.95.**

Long Distance Parenting, by Miriam Galper Cohen. **BKP-213 — 193 pg. HB $17.95.**

Parent vs. Parent, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D. **BKP-209 -- 240 pg. HB $20.95.**

Don't Blame Me, Daddy, by Dean Tong. **BKA-806 — 215 pg. SB $11.95.**

Divorce And The Myth Of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D. **BKE-608 - 175 pg. SB $19.95.**

Children Held Hostage, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D. and Brynne V. Rivlin, M.S.S. **BKE-606 -- 208 pg. SB $49.95.**

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Bulk copies of this newsletter are available (20 for $15, 50 for $30, and 100 for $59) for distribution to policy-makers, judges, and interested persons in your state. Send order to CRC.

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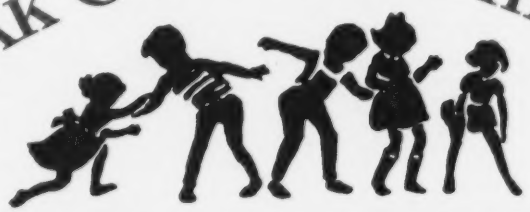
Strengthening Famiiies *Assisting Children of Separation and Divorce*

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN



The Quarterly Newsletter of The Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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IN THIS ISSUE:

About CRC 2
Clinton Panel Surveys Welfare and Child Support 3
Speakers at CRC's Conference.....5
Ross Named to top Post.....5
Awards Time 6
Poverty is the Symptom 7
New CRC Advisors ...7
Bills/Resolutions 8
Child Support Bills ..9
Around the Country.....10
New Directory 10
CRC's Views 10
Inside CRC 11
More CRC's 1993 Conference News....12
Awards Presented..13
Use & Misuse of Mental Health Experts 15
Court Cases 16
New Coordinators ..17

Access (Visitation) Commission Funded; 15 Members to be Appointed

Sen. Kohl

After being declared dead, the Commission on Child Welfare that will provide a national forum for access (visitation) problems sprang to life this Fall with a $250,000 appropriation, thanks to the efforts of a legislative aide to Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-WI), the sponsor of the Commission.

Now comes the important task of appointing the 15 members of the Commission (see more on this below).

The Commission, authorized under the 1992 Hyde/Shelby bill (Public Law 102-521), required, under Congress's 2-step process, an appropriation of funds before it could operate.

Sherry Hayes, legislative aide to Sen. Kohl, had earlier reported to CRC that Congress had decided not to fund any commissions this year, as reported in the Summer/Fall "Speak Out for Children".

But she observed during a subsequent meeting of Senate aides that a commission to study certain aspects of the social security commission was being funded by Congress. The result was that Congress decided to also fund the commission on child welfare.

Although the $250,000 is far less than the $2 million originally authorized, Congress has pledged another $250,000 for the commission next year. Moreover, the language of the funding bill adopts the strong language about visitation that Senator Kohl remarked on the Senate floor in 1992, but which is only marginally mentioned in the Hyde-Shelby bill itself.

The Congressional report says $250,000 is provided "for the Commission on Child and Family Welfare to examine child visitation rights of non-custodial parents and other issues that were not addressed by the United States Child Support Commission.

Continued on page 4

Domestic Violence Tied to Visitation Services

The Senate has passed, as part of the omnibus Crime bill, a provision that would authorize grants to domestic violence shelters to administer supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up centers for children.

A similar bill, H.R. 2573, sponsored by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN), is pending in the House.

The Senate bill, sponsored by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN), was subject to a hearing before Sen. Chris Dodd's Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism on October 28, and tacked onto the crime bill 11 days later (see Congressional Record, Monday, November 8, 1993, page S15242).

Continued on page 4

CRC'S EIGHTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE APRIL 13-17, 1994 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BETHESDA, MARYLAND (the same conference site as in 1993). PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editors: David L. Levy, Elliott H. Diamond.

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nationwide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC favors family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC seeks to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial approach, and providing fair financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 25 states and three national affiliate organizations: Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR), Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, N.E., Washington, D.C, 20002, or call (202) 547-6227. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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Clinton Panel Surveys Welfare and Child Support

A high-level panel, assigned by President Clinton to gather information for welfare reform and child support legislation, has been holding hearings around the country.

The panel, called the "Welfare Reform Working Group," is expected to make recommendations that will be part of proposed legislation that President Clinton sends to Capitol Hill in 1994.

The committee, co-chaired by Bruce Read, assistant White House advisor on domestic policy, and Mary Jo Bane, assistant secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services, has held five hearings—in Chicago, Washington, D.C., northern New Jersey, Sacramento, California, and Memphis, Tennessee.

Officials of the panel have called on CRC to testify at three of the five hearings that have been held around the country.

CRC President David L. Levy testified at the Washington, D.C. hearing. He was on a panel of eight people, each of whom spoke for five minutes. Then, in an unusual procedure for a hearing in Washington, D.C., there was open discussion for 25 minutes among the eight testifiers and the working group officials. Seven testifiers advocated merely for "tightening the screws" with new support enforcement techniques, but Levy advocated an alternative approach. The entire session was spent on the alternative approach.

David Ellwood, assistant director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for Planning and Development, opened the door for the wide-ranging discussion by posing the question, "Are we proceeding the right way in our child support system?" No, said Levy—child support is the only area of the law where there is no mix of incentives and responsibilities.

But when you buy a car, said Ellwood, that is a responsibility.

Yes, said Levy, but then the car is yours, and when you pay on a mortgage, you live in the house, but when you pay financial child support, where is the child? Society, Levy said, does not protect the child-parent relationship.

Another testifier, from AYUDA, that represents Hispanic clients, spoke of abusive and neglectful fathers. CRC does not condone those kinds of parents—mothers or fathers, said Levy, but the average Jane and Joe divorcing Americans love their children and want to be part of their lives.

Levy cited Census Bureau data that where fathers have joint custody, they pay 90.2% of their support (these fathers represent 7 percent of divorced fathers); where fathers have visitation, they pay 79.1% of their support (55% of divorced fathers), and where fathers have neither joint custody nor visitation, they pay only 44.5% of their support (37% of divorced fathers). The statistics would probably be the same, said Levy, if the Census Bureau interviewed mothers as well as fathers.

Levy asked that the Clinton Administration make greater efforts towards family formation and family preservation, but if families break up (or are never formed), to assure that children receive emotional support (parenting) as well as financial support.

Levy's panel was broadcast at least three times on C-Span.

Regional hearings

At the hearing in New Jersey, testifiers included Richard Martin, the president of the New Jersey Council for Children's Rights, who pointed out that if children are to avoid poverty and crime—they need an education, they need good role models, and they need two parents who care.

Bruce Eden, chairman of the board of NJCCR, testified that less than two percent of single mothers receiving welfare are removed from the welfare roles each year because of child support (source: Jon Conine, former Director of the Washington State Child Support Enforcement Program).

Steve Nagy, NJCCR member, testified that "I walked into court a loving, caring, involved father. I walked out an indentured servant, merely a big brother to a kid I'm sure to lose. I no longer respect the law. I simply fear it. I am no longer an American citizen, just an American victim."

At a hearing in Sacramento, California, CRC Sacramento chapter head Patricia Gehlen called for more balance in the family law system.

If you would like copies of any of the testimony referred to above, write to CRC national for Levy's testimony (include $3.00 for postage and handling); for testimony from CRC chapters, write to the respective chapter (see addresses of chapters near the end of this issue).

CRC officers and officers of other organizations representing children and non-custodial parents have held several meetings with high officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during the past several months. This marks the first time that extensive meetings have been held between such organizations and ranking political appointees at HHS.

Separate meetings have also been held by such organizations, including CRC, the American Fathers Coalition, and the Stepfamily Association, with William Galston, a White House assistant domestic policy advisor. This also marks the first time that a high-ranking White House official has held several meetings with organizations representing children, non-custodial parents, and extended families.

More such meetings are planned.

(See Page 4 regarding the efforts of Galston vis-a-vis the Commission on Child Welfare).

Access Commission

Continued from page 1

Again, it was behind the scenes work by the office of Senator Kohl to get this strong language into the funding provision—a mandate to guide appointments to the commission and the work of the commission.

Even after Congress provided this $250,000 and President Clinton signed the funding bill, the President could have included the $250,000 in a bill he sent to Congress November 1, 1993 asking that certain funds previously allocated be "rescinded" because they were unnecessary expenditures.

William Galston, assistant White House director of domestic policy, told representatives of CRC and other organizations who met with him in October, that he planned to personally ask administration officials in charge of the budget not to include the Commission in their request for rescission. They complied, and the $250,000 was not in the rescission bill.

15 Members to be Appointed

They are to be appointed as follows:

* 3 by the president of the United States;

* 4 by the President pro tempore of the Senate (Robert C. Byrd, D-WV);

* 2 by the Senate minority leader (Robert Dole, R-KS);

* 4 by the Speaker of the House (Thomas Foley, D-WA);

* 2 by the House minority leader (Bob Michel, R-IL).

The law provides that the commissioners are to be:

(a) persons who have expertise in family law, children's issues, mental health, and related policies:

(b) persons who have expertise, through research and practice in laws and policies related to child and family welfare;

(c) persons who represent organizations that seek to protect the civil rights of children;

(d) persons who represent advocacy groups that work for the interests of children;

(e) persons who represent advocacy groups that work for the interests of both custodial and non-custodial parents, and;

(f) persons who have conducted extensive research on, or delivered services to, children adversely affected by divorce."

CRC and other advocacy groups across the country have presented slates of candidates to the persons who make appointments to the Commission.

The many individuals and organizations who wrote letters and made phone calls to Senator Kohl and other members of Congress on behalf of establishment and funding of the commission showed that there is widespread support in the U.S. for such a commission.

Domestic Violence

Continued from page 1

The bill authorizes $7,500,000 a year, or a total of $30 million for four years for the domestic violence shelters to administer the supervised visitation centers.

At the hearing, Dodd said that non-custodial fathers were not the only ones responsible for visitation problems, and that there was more to visitation problems than domestic violence, but his words were not reported in most media stories of the hearing, and were not reflected in the legislation. The media reported that Sheila Wellstone, the senator's wife, was the catalyst behind the bill.

The hearing before Dodd's committee, which was entirely focused on domestic violence, was conducted as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

CRC and Dick Woods, administrator of a $300,000 federal access grant, part of which is being spent to identify and diagnose visitation problems, were not allowed to testify at the hearing.

Nevertheless, CRC and Woods issued a statement which was distributed at the hearing, endorsing the concept of supervised visitation and neutral pick-up and drop-off points, but urging that the findings of Woods' federal grant be considered before Congress passes legislation in this area.

The statement said that domestic violence shelters have little or no experience in supervised visitation or neutral drop-offs, and that schools, day care centers or people's homes would be more "neutral" places for children involved in such programs than sites selected by domestic violence shelters.

The statement urged that the many divorced parents' support groups across the country with experience in either supervised visitation or neutral drop-off or pick-up be eligible for funds for this purpose.

CRC urges all organizations with such experience, or who, because they counsel divorcing parents, have the means to develop such experience, to write to their Representatives, urging that the funding in this bill be open to all such groups.

Educate your Representative about the data and research involved in visitation problems, and the need for balanced legislation regarding supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Write to
Representative (name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515.

Write to your Senator, saying that if the bill goes to conference committee, with a provision for funding to include groups with experience in handling supervised visitation, and neutral drop-off and pick-up points, you want your senator to support the broader funding. Write to your
Senator (name)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

CRC Needs

CRC needs a financial officer. The financial officer can function from anywhere in the country. Duties include preparation of budget and financial reports.

If you can donate materials to CRC, such as computers, typewriters, fax machines, or telephones, we can use them at our national office in Washington, D.C. or give them to our chapters around the country. And you can obtain a tax deduction for your contribution.

C67

Ahrons, Braver, Blau, Clawar/Rivlin, Gardner, Woods Speakers at CRC's 1994 Conference

Constance Ahrons, Ph.D, Sanford Braver, Melinda Blau, Stanley Clawar and Brynne Rivlin and Richard Gardner, will highlight CRC's Eighth National Conference April 13-17, 1994.

Ahrons

Ahrons, a long-time researcher and writer on divorce, and guest on numerous TV shows on the subjects of divorce and custody, will speak on "Is a Good Divorce an Oxymoron?" Ahron's newest book, "The Good Divorce" will be published in 1994 by Harper/Collins. Ahrons is a professor of sociology and practicing psychotherapist in Santa Monica, California.

Blau

Melinda Blau, a writer for Child, The New York Magazine, New Woman, and American Health, who won a "Best in Media" award from CRC in 1989 for an article in New York Magazine on family therapy called "In It Together," is the author of a forthcoming book entitled "Families Apart: 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting" (Putnam Publishing Group). She lives in Northampton, Mass.

Braver

Sanford Braver, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Arizona State University, a major researcher on the relationship between parental involvement and financial child support, will speak on that subject. Braver has written in journal articles that the perception of control that a parent has over a child's life, i.e., the perceived involvement the parent has in the child's upbringing, is a predictor of child support compliance.

Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., and Brynne V. Rivlin, co-authors of "Children Held Hostage: Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children," a book published by the American Bar Association's Section

Clawer and Rivlin

on Family Law, will speak on the subjects raised by the book. The book has attracted the attention of many judges, mediators and parents. The authors, who are husband and wife, live in Pennsylvania.

Gardner

Richard Gardner, M.D., clinical professor of child psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Cresskill, New Jersey, will conduct a 3 hour pre-conference workshop Wednesday morning, April 13, on "Proposed amendments to the 1974 Child Abuse Reporting Law", and "Follow-up studies of non-abused children who were programmed to believe that they were sexually abused: the creation of new categories of psychiatric disturbance".

Woods

Dick Woods, administrator of the $300,000 federal Iowa Access Grant, will give a pre-conference training session Wednesday afternoon, April 13, for persons who wish to become access (visitation) counsellors in their states.

To attend the pre-conference programs on April 13, conference attendees are urged to arrive in Washington on Tuesday evening, April 12, and stay until the conference ends on Sunday, April 17 at 12 noon.

Ross Named to top Post

Judge David Gray Ross of Prince George's County, Maryland, has been named to the nation's top child support job—Director of the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) at HHS. Noted for quickly establishing paternity testing in cases of unwed parents seeking child support before his court, Ross is also known for favoring mediation and the involvement of both parents in the raising of their children. Ross, a "Healer" award winner from CRC (see article elsewhere in this issue), "will bring a welcome balance and fairness to the nation's top child support job," said CRC President David L. Levy, a neighbor of Ross's in Prince George's County.

For the best possible airfare rate to CRC's Eighth National Conference, phone Journeys Unlimited, 1-800-486-8359 (New York City), Monday through Friday, 9 to 5:30 p.m. EST. Be sure to mention you are attending the CRC conference. Book all your travel needs through Journeys Unlimited, and CRC will benefit. Mention that you are a supporter of CRC.

068

Awards Time Again

At its 1994 conference, CRC will present the annual Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "Healers" among lawyers, judges, and others, and its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques. Nominations should be received by February 15, 1994.

A "Healer" might be:

- a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);
- an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

For Media Awards, possible contenders are:

- best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);
- best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents; or
- best TV series on abuse and false abuse charges.

For Active Parenting, possible contenders are:

- programs that help with family formation and family preservation;
- programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Send "Healer" award nominations to:
Carla A. Goodwin, M.Ed.
Certified Educational Psychologist
920 Washington Street
South Easton, MA 02375
(508) 238-3722

Send "Best in Media" award nominations to:
James Morning, coordinator,
CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 629-3310

Send "Active Parenting" nominations to
Brent Sandbak
Children's Rights Coalition
807 Brazos Street, Suite 309
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 499-8272

Bev Willis (see story at right) helped convince the judges in Wyandotte County (Kansas City, Kansas) to require all parents to attend an informative two-hour parenting class at the time of separation. About half of the parents who attend the class agree to voluntary shared parenting agreements. The program received favorable reviews from Jessica Pearson, of the Center for Policy Research, in her review of visitation programs around the country, as also contributing to higher child support payments by participating parents. Parents in other Kansas counties, especially Johnson County, are expected to attend similar programs.

The winner of the raffle at the 1992 conference was Sherry Stanley, of CRC of Texas. She won a painting entitled "Three Horses at Sunrise," valued at $600.00.

One of three watercolors

Buy Raffles— Win 3 Fine Paintings

Bev Willis, a 1987 Chief Justice Warren E. Burger "Healer" award winner from CRC ("for helping children of separation and divorce"), has donated a set of three original watercolors as the prize to the winner of a raffle at CRC's Eighth National Conference on April 13-17, 1994.

The set depicts three different nature scenes and is valued at $600.00. One of the three paintings is shown above.

Bev is retired from the Wyandotte County, Kansas domestic services office, and devotes her time to painting.

Only 750 raffle tickets will be printed. The tickets are $2 each, or three for $5. Each conference attendee will receive a free raffle ticket. You do not have to be present at the conference to win.

Additional watercolors may be ordered from Bev Willis, at 317 W. Mulberry Street, Olathe, KS, 66061, phone 913-780-1714, and CRC will obtain a portion of the purchase price.

Raffle Ticket

Send me ___ tickets at $2.00 each, or 3 for $5.00.
Charge ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ AmEX
CC# _____
OR ☐ amount enclosed _____.
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Phone No. (___) _____

Fill out the form above, and mail to Dr. Gary Santora, 6723 Whittier Avenue, McLean, VA 22101.

Poverty is the Symptom, Two Parent Family is the Solution

A recently published book that ranks states according to child well-being provides a great deal of data, but gives no causes for higher wellbeing. "The Kids Count Data Book," the "state by state profiles of child wellbeing" published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Social Policy, ranks all states and the District of Columbia as to the "wellbeing of its children."

The report has several categories and classifications of a child's wellbeing (such as low birth-weight babies, infant mortality, child death rate, teen births, juvenile crime, high school graduation rates, violent deaths, child poverty, etc.). However, the report draws no correlation between the percentage of intact families and the child's wellness, on the overall state's rating.

The coordinator of CRC of Georgia, Sonny Burmeister, correlated the "Kids Count Data Book" child wellness ratings with data from other sources on the number of intact families in each state. He found a direct correlation between intact families and child wellness.

No state which is high in the percentage of intact families is low in child wellbeing, nor are states that are high in child wellbeing low in intact families. The positive correlation between intact families and child wellness is shown below.

Ranking by % of intact families	State	Ranking by Wellness of Children
1.	North Dakota	4
2.	Idaho	16
3.	Utah	7
4	Nebraska	9
5.	Iowa	5
6.	Wyoming	12
7.	New Hampshire	1
8.	Rhode Island	14
9.	Wisconsin	8
10.	Kansas	13
11.	Connecticut	6
12.	Vermont	3
13.	Pennsylvania	22
14.	Hawaii	15
15.	South Dakota	20
16.	Montana	21
17.	Alaska	26
18.	Minnesota	2
19.	West Virginia	27
20.	Washington	17
21.	Maine	10
22.	Ohio	24
23.	Missouri	36
24.	Oklahoma	35
25.	Texas	31
26.	New Mexico	46
27.	Arizona	37
28.	Oregon	19
29.	New Jersey	18
30.	California	33
31.	Kentucky	32
32.	Virginia	23
33.	Colorado	25
34.	Massachusetts	11
35.	North Carolina	39
36.	Nevada	28
37.	Indiana	29
38.	Delaware	34
39.	South Carolina	44
40.	Michigan	40
41.	Arkansas	41
42.	Maryland	30
43.	Illinois	38
44.	Georgia	47
45.	New York	42
46.	Florida	45
47.	Alabama	48
48.	Tennessee	43
49.	Louisiana	49
50.	Mississippi	50
51.	District of Columbia	51

As can be seen, no state which is high in the percentage of intact families is low in child wellbeing, nor are states that are high in child wellbeing low in intact families.

The states with the highest child wellness rating included North Dakota, Vermont, Utah, and New Hampshire, while states at the bottom were Georgia, New York, Florida, and Washington, D.C.

Even an economically poor state like West Virginia was in the middle rating of child wellness, because West Virginia has a high ratio of two-parent intact families.

"The assumption heretofore that poverty is the problem is refuted by the statistics," said Burmeister. "The demographic correlation between poverty and the states with the highest number of two parent families indicates that poverty is the symptom, and the two-parent family is the solution."

Goodson, Diller, Ricker New CRC Advisors

Phyllis Diller and Jonathan M. Goodson have accepted invitations from CRC to join our Advisory Panel. Kevin Ricker is the new advisor representing the Stepfamily Association of America.

Goodson took over as president of Mark Goodson Productions upon the death of his father, Mark Goodson. Mark Goodson was Honorary President of CRC prior to his death in 1992. Jonathan Goodson's company produces 35 half-hours of original network TV programming each week (such as "The Price is Right" and "Family Feud"), and is principal stockholder of more than 60 community newspapers.

Goodson, a collector of modern art, is the father of four children, three from his first wife, and one from his remarriage.

Diller, a longtime movie actress, rose from performing in small nightclubs to stardom in motion pictures and TV. She has made 18 films, including three in which she co-starred with Bob Hope.

Acclaimed as the world's only female stand-up comic of international stature, Diller has written four best-selling books, and has won awards for her talents and philanthropies. Her paintings have been exhibited at the Cincinnati Museum of Art, and she was named "Celebrity Businesswoman of the Year" in 1990 by the National Association of Women Business Owners. Diller has five children and four grandchildren.

"We welcome Phyllis Diller and Jonathan M. Goodson to our Advisory Panel, and welcome the greater visibility they will give to the cause of children's rights and CRC," said CRC General Counsel Michael L. Oddenino.

Ricker, who becomes president of the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA) on January 1, 1994, will represent SAA on our Advisory Panel. Ricker, a licensed professional clinical counselor (M.A., L.P.C.C.) from Sylvania, Ohio, has raised four stepchildren from his first marriage, and is now raising 2 stepchildren from his second marriage. Ricker replaces Judith Bauersfeld, Ph.D. whose two year term as president of SAA expired on December 30, 1993.

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or person to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives; S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or to express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views. The capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the offices of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). Although this is a 24-hour switchboard, and can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress, and even sometimes names of staff night and day, the switchboard can only connect you with an office during normal business hours. You may also wish to contact the Congressmembers' branch office in your district for information.

(CRC's comments are in parentheses below).

As part of the Clinton Administration budget bill, passed by a narrow margin in August, Congress approved a child support provision that sets up a hospital-based program for the voluntary acknowledgement of paternity during a period immediately preceding or following the birth of a child.

Although CRC favors paternity establishment, whether or not a gender-based custody system is created will depend on the forms adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) between now and March 31, 1994, when this hospital-based paternity law takes effect. Laurie Casey, CRC senior policy analyst, has developed gender-balanced forms. Obtain a copy from Laurie at P.O. Box 81, Moriah Center, NY 12961, phone (518) 942-3366. Send $5 for postage and handling. Then send the forms with a cover letter urging their adoption to David Gray Ross, Director, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, Washington, D.C. 20201.

S. 689, the comprehensive "Bradley bill" (named for its primary sponsor, Sen. Bill Bradley, D-NJ), which would require the states to revoke licenses for parents who owe support, referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

See also H.R. 1600, sponsored by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ). Referred to Consumer Credit and Insurance Subcommittee of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8872 (see story elsewhere in this newsletter.

S. 870, the Wellstone bill, that would authorize domestic violence shelters to handle supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up for children of divorce. Passed as part of the Senate crime bill (see front page story). The House version, introduced by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN), is H.R. 2573.

H.R. 454, which affects jurisdiction for child support cases, passed by the House, being considered by the Senate. Discussed in Summer/Fall 1993 "Speak Out for Childiren."

McDermott

H.R. 2241, would provide for the establishment of a committee to assist the Secretary of Health and Human Services in developing new criteria and standards for audits of state child support programs, and require the Secretary to promulgate regulations to modify such audits to emphasize program outcomes. Introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), and referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.

(This is the first bill CRC is aware of that, if passed, would provide for accountability of state child support programs).

Volkmer

H.R. 1995, would amend the IRS code to allow an exemption where a noncustodial parent provides over half of the support of the child for a calendar year to claim such child as a dependent. The bill was introduced by Rep. Harold Volkmer (D-MO), and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625. (Current law gives the child exemption to the custodial parent regardless of the parents' relative support contributions).

H.R. 915, would, in regard to child support, deny business and professional licenses to obligors, provide for credit bureau reporting. Introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-CO., referred to Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8951.

(When Congresswoman Schroeder was chairman of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, she wrote to CRC members that she wanted to hold hearings that would focus on emotional as well as financial support, but she never held such a hearing, and her bill only addresses financial child support question. All House Select Committees, including Ms. Schroeder's committee, were abolished by the House early in 1993).

S. 967, to provide for the Internal Revenue Service to collect financial child support. Introduced by Sen. Richard Shelby (D-AL). Referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

S. 922 would authorize only the state where the child is living to modify a child support order. Introduced by Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), referred to Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice of House Judiciary Committee (202) 224-4933. A similar bill, S. 532, has been introduced by Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM), and referred to the same subcommittee.

S. 596, the comprehensive "Rockefeller bill", named for its primary sponsor, Sen. John J. Rockefeller, (D-WV). This family preservation and child protection reform act would provide funds to provide services to help prevent abuse, neglect and family disintegration; would fund intensive family preservation programs designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain with their families (including adoptive families). Referred to Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

H. 939, to amend the IRS code to simplify the definition of dependent, to provide a uniform definition of child, and for other purposes. Introduced by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), referred to the Finance Commttee (202) 224-4515.

S. 561, Child and Family Services and Law Enforcement Partnership Act, designed to prevent community violence by facilitating interaction between child and family service organizations, law enforcement agencies, local educational agencies, and other community organizations, ways to help prevent violence, and to provide services to those who have witnessed violence. Sponsored by Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT), and passed by Senate as part of the Crime bill, S. 1607.

S. 434, to amend the IRS code to allow taxpayers a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments and to require the inclusion in income of child support payments which a taxpayer does not pay—thus taxing the obligor twice (The obligor already pays tax on income that should have been allocated for child support, and this bill would tax him or her again for those portions not paid). Sponsored by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AK), referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4525.

H.R. 555, to ensure that any overdue child support obligations are reported to consumer credit reports.

Sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

H.R. 520, the Link-Up for Learning Act, would provide programs for at-risk youth, with the goal of improving their educational performance. Sponsored by Nita Lowey, D-CA. (202) CA 5-6506.

S.6, Sexual Assault Prevention Act of 1993, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole, designed to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women. This bill was absorbed in part by S. 11, "The Biden Bill," the Violence Against Women Act, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and was incorporated into the $22 billion crime bill passed by the Senate. Provides $1.8 billion to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women, and to establish a national task force on violence against women.

S. 8, sponsored by Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS), and H.R. 688, sponsored by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), express the sense of Congress that joint custody should not be given to spouse abusers. Congress passed a similar joint custody resolution several years ago sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) (if Congress is going to enter the custody area, traditionally reserved for the states, it should recommend joint custody—shared parenting—as a first option for fit parents, especially as the Census Bureau reports that parents with joint custody and visitation pay far more in financial support than parents without joint custody and visitation. Congress is expected to consider strong financial support legislation this year, and so statistics on who pays and why is important for Congress to factor into its deliberations).

S. 8, to control and prevent crime. Section 2262(2) of the bills says "joint custody forced upon hostile parents can create a damaging psychological environment for a child," while Section 2262(5) says "It is the sense of the Congress that, for the purpose of determining child custody, evidence establishing that a parent engages in physical abuse of a spouse should create a statutory presumption that it is detrimental to the child to be placed in the custody of the abusive spouse." Introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), referred to Judiciary Committee (202) 224-5225.

H.R. 688, similar to S. 8 (above). Introduced by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), referred to the subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice of House Judiciary Committee (202) 226-2406.

S. 254, to ensure that any peace dividend is invested in America's families and deficit reduction. Sec. 606A states "The Secretary of the Treasury shall increase the personal exemption for individuals as determined under section 151 of the IRS code of 1986..." Introduced by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), referred to Committee on Budget (202) 224-0642 and Committee on Governmental Affairs (202) 224-4751.

H.R. 773, the "Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act of 1993" would amend the IRS code and the Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to state enforcement of financial child support and to require the IRS to collect support through wage withholding. Introduced by Rep. Hyde (R-IL), referred to subcommittee on Human Resources (202) 225-1025 of the House Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 435, to provide tax relief for families, by providing an additional $600 tax deduction for a family for each child under age 19. No provision for who would be eligible for this increased deduction in cases of divorce. Introduced by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.

H.R. 1800, to provide set-aside programs for pregnant teenagers that include health care, job training, mentor support and counselling services. Introduced by Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA), referred to Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Educational Committee of Committee on Education and Labor (202) 225-4368.

Shaw

H.R. 741, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to provide welfare families with the education, training, job search, and work experience to prepare them to leave welfare within two years, to authorize states to conduct demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of policies designed to help people leave welfare and increase their financial security. Introduced by Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means (202) 225-1025.

H.R. 619, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to assure the completeness and accuracy of consumer information maintained by credit reporting agencies. Included in credit reporting agencies are state and local financial child support enforcement agencies. Introduced by Rep. McCandless (R-CA), referred to subcommittee on Consumer Credit Service of Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (202) 225-8872.

H.R. 522, to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline. Sec. 2(2) states that the hotline shall provide "victims of domestic violence needed access to resources which will refer such victims and their children to safe homes and shelters." Introduced by Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD), and referred to Select Education and Civil Rights Subcommittee (202) 226-7532.

H.R. 455, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove the barriers and disincentives in the program of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) that prevent recipients of such aid from moving toward self-sufficiency. Introduced by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), referred to Subcommittee on Human Resources of Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625. This bill is expected to be incorporated into the forthcoming Welfare Reform bill.

Burton

H. Res. 236, declares that "whereas the current breakdown of the traditional American family is a major factor contributing to the rise of crime, teen pregnancy, educational failure, substance abuse, and suicide among our nation's youth....(and) whereas it is in the interest of society and government to adopt policies that help families stay together by strengthing and sustaining fathers and mothers in fulfilling their parental roles," organizations and governmental bodies are urged to recognize July 28, 1994 as Parents Day. Introduced by Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), referred to House Post Office and Civil Service Committee (202) 225-4054.

Child Support Bills

As part of child support legislation that is expected to be considered by Congress in early 1994, in conjunction with welfare reform, a wide-ranging financial child support bill (S. 689) has been introduced by Sen. Bradley (D-NJ), along with a companion House bill, S. 1600, introduced by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ). Those bills, if passed by Congress, would provide the following:

- require the states to establish procedures for withholding professional or occupational licenses from non-custodial parents who owe support;
- require the states to deny driver's licenses to parents who owe support;
- authorize attachment by states of bank accounts of obligor parents;
- authorize IRS assistance in collection of support arrearages;
- authorize attachment of public and private retirement funds;
- require the states to provide criminal penalties for non-support;
- require the federal government to fund child support assurance demonstration projects, under which the government would provide a minimum assistance to a custodial parent and child if sufficient support is not being paid; the government would still attempt to collect the support.
- require support to continue until the age of 18 or until a child graduates from a secondary school;
- require the states to give courts discretionary power to order child support up to age 22 if a child attends a college or vocational school;
- require social security numbers on marriage licenses and child support orders;
- allow state child support agencies to access and use credit reporting agencies;
- establish laws which provide for a rebuttable presumption that the choice made by the obligee of health care insurance for the children is appropriate;
- tighten parental establishment procedures at hospitals;
- establish a "National Child Support Guidelines Commission";

Continued on page 10

Around the Country

Texas

False Allegations to be Prosecuted

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) plans to begin prosecuting family members who make false abuse reports, the first state known to announce such a plan.

Janice Caldwell, executive director of the agency, said the plan is designed to concentrate limited resources on serious cases. She said some abuse reports are little more than an effort to get the agency involved in child custody disputes. Making a false claim on child abuse is illegal in Texas, but state law requires people to report "suspected abuse."

Ms. Caldwell said false reports must be prosecuted if the agency is to handle the growing number of child abuse reports. During fiscal 1992, DPRS investigated 107,276 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect—18 percent more than the previous year.

An editorial in the Houston Chronicle September 1, 1993 supported Ms. Caldwell's plan, as have attorneys and child experts from around the country.

CRC General Counsel Mike Oddenino, Arcadia, CA., wrote to Ms. Caldwell that "...children who are not actually abused by an individual are truly abused when they wrongly become the subject of an investigation stemming from a false accusation. Of course, who can measure the grief an adult experiences when falsely charged with what is certainly the most heinous of crimes."

Illinois

Illinois has passed a law that makes visitation interference a crime. If a parent denies access (visitation), the police will be able to issue the denying parent a citation to appear in court on a petty offense. The consequence would be a fine, but after three convictions, it would be considered a misdemeanor.

The law, which amends the Illinois Criminal Code, Section 10-5.5, says "Every person who, in violation of the visitation provisions of a court order relating to child custody, detains or conceals a child with the intent to deprive another person of his or her rights to visitation shall be guilty of unlawful visitation interference.,"

The bill was signed into law by Governor Jim Edgar on July 20, 1993.

Ann Danner, CRC coordinator in Illinois, credits CRC activist Jeff Strang who worked with CRC Illinois affiliates (Family Illinois) to educate legislators about the needs of children regarding enforcement of visitation.

"We hope this law will set a precedent for other states to follow," said Danner.

She said the next step is to work with police and states attorney's offices in enforcing this new law.

New Directory of Organizations Now Available

Copies of CRC's new "Parenting International Directory," the fifth edition of its directory, is available in hard copy (updated annually) and on IBM 5 1/4" and 3 1/2" disks (updated semi-annually). The cost is $12.00 for either format for CRC members, and $15.00 for non-members.

The directory features:

* a state by state listing, in zip code order, of parenting groups within a state;
* a special section that lists national organizations involved in parenting issues;
* a list of abbreviations of terms used in the directory.

Because CRC does a great deal of networking, and constantly updates its data base, the directory can be relied on for accuracy.

The directory can be a valuable resource in making referrals around the country to and from your organization.

Order your copy now from CRC.

Child Support Bills

Continued from page 9

* expand the Parent Locator System to include visitation orders. At present, the Parent Locator System can only be used to find the location of parents who owe financial child support, and in parental kidnapping cases.

The bill implements many of the recommendations of the Interstate Child Support Commission's report which was issued in 1992.

The Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the bill, can be reached by phone at (202) 224-4515.

CRC's View

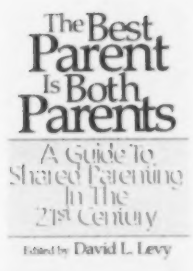
CRC has decided to oppose S. 689 and H.R. 1600, following consultation with our state chapter coordinators, because increased government regulation of only the financial child support aspects are worsening the problem for children.

CRC's position is based partly on the following:

• "From a federal budget perspective, Child Support Enforcement is an expensive disappointment," says a report issued in June, 1992 by Republican House members E. Clay Shaw, Nancy L. Johnson and Fred Grandy.

• A report provided by the General Accounting Office at the request of Congresswomen Marge Roukema and Barbara Kennelly and Senator Bill Bradley, released January 9, 1992 stated that 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the fathers say it is because the fathers were unable to pay. This data is not reflected in the legislation.

Inside CRC



David Dinn, CRC coordinator in Indiana, ordered 475 copies from CRC of our first book, "The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century." David is making the copies of the book available free to judges and policymakers in Indiana. The 157-page book, ISBN 1-878901-56-7, published by Hampton Roads Publishing Company in Norfolk, Virginia, is available in bookstores around the country.

It contains contributions from CRC writers and researchers, and is designed to help individuals and professionals with useful information on shared parenting, access/visitation, and financial child support. The book contains a substantial number of references to research that can be used in working out an agreement with a separating spouse, or if legal proceedings develop.

Although you can order individual copies of the book from CRC or from the publisher, we prefer that you ask your favorite bookstore to order copies. Bookstores will generally order 5 or 10 copies if you honestly tell them that you are a supporter of CRC. Bookstores like this "tie-in"—it shows them that the book is supported in the local community. The retail price of the book is $9.95.

Copies on the shelves will be seen by other people who browse the bookstore, and thus increase sales. Information about CRC, as well as the names, addresses and phone numbers of CRC chapters are listed in the back of the book. The names of CRC advisors are also provided.

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is now a partner in the newly-revamped law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT. 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Computer Services

Micro Center of Fairfax, Virginia, part of a nationwide computer department store, has helped CRC update its computer system. Micro Center, which often has bargains on computer products, is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, and has retail locaions in Atlanta, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. Micro Electronics, Inc. is a mail order division for Micro Center and can be reached at 1-800-634-3478.

Psychology/Mediation

Donald K. Smith, Ph.D., a longtime CRC supporter, is a clinical psychologist, educational psychologist, marriage and family child counselor who does custody evaluations; workers compensation, personal injury and learning disability assessments. Will travel to testify. 333 City Boulevard West, Suite 1235, Orange, CA 92668, phone (914) 939-6678.

Leslee J. Newman, Esq. and Donald K. Smith, divorce mediation, 8141 East Kaiser Boulevard, Suite 103, Anaheim Hills, CA 92808, phone (714) 282-1515.

Charity Drive Ends

CRC thanks everyone who designated CRC (number 1513) in the recent nationwide federal government charity drive. Those funds help maintain CRC throughout the year. Thank you.

Crime Rate Related to Family Composition

What is perhaps the largest survey of crime ever conducted in America, involving random samples of 11,419 individuals in 57 neighborhoods, has concluded that "The percentage of single-parent households with children between the ages of 12 and 20 is significantly associated with rates of violent crime and burglary."

The study, entitled "Social Structure and Criminal Victimization" by Douglas A. Smith and Roger Jarjoura, was published in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol. 25, No. 1, February, 1988, gave the results of research in neighborhoods in Rochester (New York), Tampa (Florida) and St. Louis (Missouri). The survey has received only sporadic press attention since it was published.

The survey, which analyses previous studies on crime, and controls for such factors as poverty, racial composition of neighborhoods, density of population and residential mobility, discussed the view that minority population neighborhoods are perceived to have higher crime rates than white neighborhoods.

Smith and Jarjoura disagreed, saying their finding is consistent with 1985 research by R. J. Sampson "who notes that many studies that find a significant association between racial composition and crime rates have failed to control for community family structure and may mistakenly attribute to racial composition an effect that is actually due to the association between race and family structure. ...Additionally, the percentage of single-parent households helps explain the association between poverty and rates of burglary in these data...Given these results, it would seem that measures of neighborhood family composition are another central element in explaining neighborhood variation in criminal activity."

More News from CRC's 1993 National Conference (Pages 12-15)

This is in addition to news of CRC's 1993 Seventh National Conference which appeared in our Summer/Fall 1993 newsletter. Speakers at the conference included:

Williams

Williams

Robert Williams is the Director of Policy Studies, Inc., Denver, CO, the main evaluator of the federal access (visitation) grants awarded by the federal government to improve access (visitation) enforcement under Section 504 of the 1988 Family Support Act. Williams noted that the Congressionally stated purpose of the grants was to:

A) decrease time required for the resolution of child access disputes;

B) reduce child access litigation; and

C) improve compliance with court-ordered support payments. Williams reported on the purpose of the first wave of grants in Tallahassee, Florida; Boise, Idaho, and Marion and Lake Counties, Indiana; and Wave II projects located in Phoenix, Arizona; Boise, Idaho; Des Moines, Iowa; and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For the first wave, Williams said that:

* in Florida, child access disputes are estimated to arise in 9 percent of new order cases, and 5 percent of prior order cases;

* in Idaho, child access disputes are estimated to arise in 20 percent of prior order cases;

* in Marion County, Indiana, child access disputes are estimated to arise in 4 percent of IV-D (child support enforcement) cases. There are reasons to believe that this figure is an underestimate, however," said Williams.

A final report on the three First Wave projects was due to be published in late 1993. The Second Wave final report is not due until 1995.

(CRC has talked with HHS officials, particularly David Arnaudo and Ken Maniha, who have administered the grants for HHS, who are seeing, particularly through Dick Woods' grant, that visitation rights can be enforced at low cost within the legal system. Maniha and Arnaudo seem impressed that such enforcement is workable. HHS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is responsibile for the administration of the grants, while Williams is the main grant evaluator).

Thoennes

Thoennes

* Nancy Thoennes, Ph.D., co-director, Center for Policy Research, Denver, CO., reported on two research projects, one of which was "Mediation Rather than Litigation as a Means of Resolving Child Abuse and Neglect Cases." She said she found that despite initial resistance to mediation among professionals who were expected to participate, resistance was overcome by showing that: most cases settle in mediation, mediation can protect children, parents are not at a disadvantage in mediation, imbalances of power can be addressed in mediation, and parents are more likely to be involved in mediation than in other negotiations forums. "Mediation can be a valuable tool to the juvenile court, and can offer signifiant improvements over traditional approaches in most courts, but they are brief interventions that cannot be expected to compensate for other deficiencies in the system," her report states.

For more information on the above report, or on Thoennes' other assessment, of the U.S. foster care system, contact her at the Center for Policy Studies, 1720 Emerson Street, Denver, Colorado, 80218.

McIsaac

McIsaac

* Hugh McIsaac, longtime director of the Conciliation Court of Los Angeles, CA., the largest mediation/conciliation court in the U.S., urged efforts "to spare children the tragedy of a parentectomy—the removal of a parent from the child's life." McIsaac, now Director of Family Court Services, Multnomah County (Portland, OR), urged mediation as a means for resolving custody disputes and to ensure that both divorced parents stay involved in their children's lives.

Mediation can spare children from becoming "pawns in a frightful adversarial struggle."

McIsaac said "we need a new language that is liberating and enhancing of the human spirit, a flexible language that is responsive to children's needs to be loved and cared for, not as possessions, but as human beings who have to grow up in a new and different world."

He described as "imprisoning" the use of language such as "custody and visitation." Custody is a word for prisoners, not a word to describe children, he noted. And we "visit" people in hospitals and mental institutions, we don't visit our own children. We live with them, we love them and are with them.

He noted the emphasis in California and Oregon on divorcing couples to develop parenting plans. It is a process that must preserve the family while allowing the adults to disconnect.

McIsaac headed California's effort to establish a statewide conciliation system, and he is still editor of the Family and Conciliation Courts Review, a publication of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Adapted from a report by Donald J. Middleman, Philadelphia, PA, editor of Fathers Rights Newsline

Awards Presented at Seventh Conference

CRC presented awards in several categories at our Seventh National Conference April 28-May 2, 1993. The awards, engraved plaques, were presented in the following categories: "Healer" awards; Best in Media; Child Advocacy; Cici Simon Memorial Award; Distinguished Legislators; Parenting Awards; and Sponsor Award.

"Healer" Awards

When Justice Warren E. Burger was chief justice of the United States, he urged lawyers to be healers, not just litigators. Each year, CRC presents healer awards to lawyers, judges and others who emphasize healing in the domestic relations area. The 1993 CRC "healer" awards went to:

Ross

* Judge David Gray Ross, Circuit Court Judge, Prince George's County, Maryland, for being "a national leader in recognizing that a child is entitled to the love and companionship of both parents." Ross, a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Judicial Advisory Panel, is a frequent speaker before judicial and legal panels around the country, and frequently awards joint custody (shared parenting) in his court. Ross helped in the many years' effort to establish a family court in Maryland, which became law in 1993. Maryland CRC coordinator Harvey Walden presented the award on behalf of CRC to Ross, and the judge's Congressman, Steny Hoyer (D-MD), sent a letter of congratulations to Ross, which was read at the conference.

(See story on Ross's appointment to a high post in the Clinton Administration elsewhere in this issue).

* Judge Lawrence Kaplan, a Family Court judge in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Through his leadership position with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), membership on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Judicial Advisory Panel, and through many other judicial leadership positions around the country, Judge Kaplan has been, CRC's award says, "a national leader in recognizing that a child is entitled to the love and companionship of both parents." David Dinn, CRC's Indiana coordinator, presented the award on behalf of CRC to Judge Kaplan. Kaplan's Congressman, Representative William Coyne (D-PA), sent a letter of congratulations to Kaplan, which was read at the conference.

* Judge Thomas H. McKinley, 5th District, Kentucky, "for working for a child's right to two parents". Judge McKinley, of Owensboro, who has granted joint custody (shared parenting) in many cases, is also establishing parenting classes for divorcing parents in his and another judges' chambers. Judge McKinley was unable to come to Washington to receive the award, but Tracy Cox, CRC Kentucky coordinator, who nominated McKinley for the award, presented it to him after the conference at a ceremony in Owensboro.

1993 "Best in Media" awards were given to:

* Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Ph.D., for her landmark article entitled "Dan Quayle Was Right," in Atlantic Monthly, April 1993, that spoke eloquently of the needs of children for two parents. The article was excerpted in the Spring, 1993 issue of "Speak Out for Children." Georgia CRC coordinator Sonny Burmeister, one of several CRC members who nominated Whitehead, presented the award on behalf of CRC. Whitehead could not attend the conference, but her award was accepted on her behalf by David Popenoe.

Popenoe

* David Popenoe, Ph.D., for his article in the New York Times, December 26, 1992 entitled "The Controversial Truth: Two-Parent Families are Better." The article cited the overwhelming amount of research that shows that children with two parents generally do better than children with one parent. CRC Delaware coordinator James Morning presented the award on behalf of CRC to Popenoe. The article was reprinted in Speak Out for Children, Spring, 1993.

* Carly Simon, for her new opera entitled 'Romulus Hunt,' which tells the story of a 12-year-old boy named Romulus Hunt, whose divorcing parents are trying to pull Romulus in opposite directions. Romulus has a plan. He will write two fake valentines, one from his mom to his dad, and one from his dad to his mom. He will sprinkle the valentines with a special potion made from fishheads soaked in Ovaltine, and then—boom; his parents will fall back in love with each other. Unfortunately, the plan backfires—and the parents fight. Romulus, confused, suffers an accident. The accident makes his parents realize that their fighting has hurt their son, and they resolve to comfort him and tend to his needs. CRC is making arrangements to present the award to Carly Simon.

National Child Advocacy Award to:

DeConcini

* Susan Hurley DeConcini, for pioneering work in child advocacy, and for her accomplishments in strengthening child care in America. DeConcini, wife of Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) is a long-time child advocate. She received her award (with the assistance of her

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

8-year old granddaughter Peggy) from Ellen Levy of CRC (who was aided in the presentation by 7 year old Diana Levy). DeConcini's two daughters, Christine and Denise, and other grandchildren were also present at the awards ceremony.

The 1993 Cici Simon Memorial Award to:

Oddenino (left) and Raggio

* Kenneth Raggio, former chairman of the American Bar Association Family Law Section, "for national leadership regarding the use and misuse of mental health experts in family court proceedings." Raggio called national attention to the subjectivity of mental health opinion and "the unregulated power" that psychologists and psychiatrists have in Family Law proceedings. He initially drew public attention to this problem in an article September 9, 1992 as reported in the Washington Times by Nancy E. Roman. The CRC award was presented to Raggio by CRC General Counsel Michael Oddenino at a meeting of the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association on April 29 in San Diego, California. Raggio's comment in the Washington Times article was the catalyst behind CRC's decision to hold the panel discussion at our conference on the Use and Misuse of Mental Health Professionals (see elsewhere in this issue).

Distinguished Legislator awards to:

Kohl

* Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI), for his sponsorship of the Commission on Child Welfare, with an emphasis on access (visitation). Kohl got Congress to authorize the commission as part of the Hyde/Shelby bill (Public Law 102-521). The Commission is awaiting funding by Congress before it can begin its work of focusing national attention on issues affecting child welfare, including access. See Page 1 of this issue for news about the funding request.

Rockefeller

* Sen. John J. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), for his leadership of the National Commission on Children, and for focusing America on the needs of children for two-parent families. The Commission called for a return to America of the 2-parent family. Rockefeller also spoke at the conference (see Summer/Fall issue of "Speak Out for Children").

Positive Parenting Awards to:

* The Dallas Association of Young Lawyers for the video entitled "Child Custody Battles—Don't Forget the Children." The video is designed to educate divorcing parents on ways to maintain healthy, non-combative contact with their children after divorce. Judges and parents speak from first hand knowledge on the tape. Eric Anderson of the Children's Rights Coalition presented the award on behalf of CRC to Cherrie Harris of Dallas, Texas, who accepted the award on behalf of the Association.

Special Award to

David Brenner, Honorary president of CRC, for his efforts on behalf of children and CRC. Brenner, who has custody of his 10 year old son Cole, has made clear that despite a long-time custody dispute with the boy's mother, Cole has the right to close and continuing contact with both his parents, a right that Brenner respects and is honoring. Brenner obtained publicity for his efforts on behalf of children and CRC just prior to the conference with:

* an article in the Washington Times;

* a half-hour discussion on Larry King's national radio show;

* appearances on David Letterman's Show and Howard Stern's radio show.

Brenner gave a benefit performance for CRC at the conference.

Sponsor award to:

* Holiday Inn Worldwide for its generous support of children and the Children's Rights Council by sponsoring CRC's Seventh National Conference, hosted by Holiday Inn, Bethesda. Michael Weil, general manager, Holiday Inn, Bethesda, accepted the award on behalf of the parent corporation.

Book and Author Luncheon

At the Book and Author Luncheon at CRC's Seventh National Conference, the following authors spoke:

* Claire Berman, author of A Hole in My Heart and Adult Children of Divorce Speak Out and others

* Geoffrey L. Grief, D.S.W., author of When Parents Kidnap

* Stephen Herman, M.D. author of Parent vs. Parent

* Vicki Lansky, author of Divorce Book for Parents

* Marcia Lebowitz, author of I think Divorce Stinks

* Lenard Marlow, J.D. author of Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers

* Lita Linzer Schwartz, author of The Dynamics of Divorce.

Adrian Cronauer, the real-life DJ portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie, "Good Morning Vietnam," was an entertaining MC.

Introducers included Suzanne Fields, nationally syndicated columnist and author of the book "Like Father, Like Daughter," and representatives of the Alexandria Gazette, Aladdin's Lamp bookstore in Falls Church, Virginia; and Washington area representatives of Olsson's Books, Brentano's and Waldenbooks.

Continued on page 15

If you have not seen the film "Mrs. Doubtfire" starring Robin Williams, you still have time. The children in the film want to see their father (as well as their mother), and the father (Robin Williams) goes to great (humorous) lengths to see the children. A terrific movie!

Continued from page 14

The Use and Misuse of Mental Health Experts in Child Custody Cases

This was a panel discussion sponsored by the Jarosh-Flynn Family Fund, an international organization concerned with human rights. Marie McManmon of Los Angeles, the U.S. representative of the fund, said the Fund's concerns on this issue include:

* the lack of established standards in the evaluation process, the collection and interpretation of information, and the recommendations offered to parents, their attorneys, and the courts;

* the weight given to mental health opinion in pretrial conferences and in trial;

* the lack of accountability of mental health experts to provide recommendations consistent with relevant laws and constitutional safeguards;

* the lack of an established, generally accepted scientific body of knowledge relevant to child custody cases in the field of mental health.

Arnold Rutkin, Esq., Family Law Section, American Bar Association, moderated the panel discussion. Rutkin said that "Through the years many mental health professionals have used various yardsticks to render their opinion. Those yardsticks are wielded in a way which leads the courts to believe that there is actually a scientific basis to support the notion that there is one psychological parent, one primary parent, one bonding parent or the nurturing parent."

Joan Kinlan, M.D., who represented the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, pointed out that a child and adolescent psychiatrist who is able to perform a careful and thorough evaluation of all parties in a potential custody battle can be a positive force in preventing court battles.

Billie Hinnefeld, J.D., representing the American Psychological Association, presented a draft of "Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Divorce Proceedings." The guidelines are being developed by the APA Committee on Professional Practice and Standards to promote "best practice" in using psychological expertise in conducting child custody evaluations.

Jeffrey Kuhn, representing The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, said the Council is committed to reducing the adversarial nature of child custody disputes. The Council, he said, is "decidedly opposed to the utilization of mental health experts by opposing parties, the purpose of which is to discredit the conclusions of the other."Kuhn said the Council "believes strongly that divorcing parents should be mandated to participate in divorce education programs, and by limiting the function of the mental health expert to that of court-appointed expert."

Judge Frances Rothschild, Los Angeles, Superior Court, representing the American Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, noted the lack of reported cases analyzing the permissible scope of testimony of a mental health professional as an expert in a custody hearing.

She questionned whether mental health opinion testimony must pass the same validity standard as scientific evidence and whether the opinion of the expert recommending a particular custody plan is an invasion of the province of the judge.

Ronald Henry, Esq., representing CRC, said "child custody litigation has experienced an explosive growth in the use and misuse of experts" and cautioned lawyers to be alert "for signs that the judge has abdicated decision-making authority to the expert" and to "insist that testimony from proposed experts comply fully with the standards for admissibility set forth in the applicable rules of civil procedure."

He asked "Is the expert really offering an analysis of the matters that are beyond the understanding of a layman?"

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Court Cases

Child Support by Non-Parent

A 1981 paternity order still stands, despite the fact that a blood test conclusively proved that a man who has been paying child support for more than a decade is not the father of the child, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled.

The court relied on the doctrine of res judicata, the doctrine under which courts do not overturn earlier decisions without good reason. The court said that in 1981 the man accepted paternity, and did not pursue a statutory right to request a blood test, even though "he had reason to doubt that he was the father." Too long a period of time had elapsed since the 1981 court decision that the man was the "legal father" of the child, the Court said. It cited precedents in other states in support of this ruling.

Ex parte W. J. (Alabama ex re). G.J. v. W.J.; Ala SupCt., No. 1911973, 6/11/93.

Concealment of Child

A non-custodial parent cannot use the custodial parent's concealment of the child as a reason not to pay child support arrearages, the California Court of Appeal, Sixth District, has held.

At the time of its decision, a conflict existed between appellate districts in the state on this issue, the Appeal Court noted. The state Family Law Act separates the support and visitation issues, but some previous court decisions had held that deliberate concealment of the child—as distinct from mere interference with visitation—barred the custodial parent from collecting support.

However, the Court of Appeal for the Sixth District ruled that the Family Law Act does not distinguish between interference with visitation and aggravated forms of custodial parent misconduct. Even the more serious forms of custodial parent misconduct do not disqualify that parent from collecting child support, the court ruled. A subsequent Appeal Court decision (see below) differed from the Sixth District on this issue).

In re King, Calif CtApp 6th Dist, No. H010218 6/24/93

Despite the ruling above, a later ruling by the Appeal Court, First District, held that concealment of the child is a factor to be considered in determining the amount of child support arrearages owed to the state of California for reimbursement of public assistance.

The Appeal Court, First District, acknowledged the separation of the visitation and child support issues in the Family Law Act, but said outright concealment of the child was a more serious issue. In such cases, remedies for visitation interference (such as contempt, reduction of spousal support, or change of custody) "are totally illusory because they are unavailable," the Appeal Court said.

Children denied access to one parent may be caused serious and permanent emotional harm, the court said. It would be contrary to public policy "to reward a criminal wrongdoer and punish an innocent victim by requiring payment of child support for the period of time the wrongdoer is committing criminal acts," the court said.

The California Supreme Court is expected to review another similar case, and to impose uniformity across the state on this issue.

Padilla v. Padilla, Calif CtApp 1st Dist, No. A059195, 9/1/93.

Moral Fitness and Custody

A trial court was wrong in deciding that a divorcing mother's alleged extra-marital relationships should be the deciding factor in awarding custody to the father, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled. The court reversed the custody decision.

Even if the mother had engaged in extra-marital affairs, this did not justify the trial court's finding that she behaved immorally, the Appeals Court said. In addition, a parent's moral fitness is only one of 11 factors to be considered under state law in determining custody, and it had already been decided that a mother's adultery did not necessarily preclude her from having custody of her children, the Appeals Court said.

Fletcher v. Fletcher; Mich CtApp, No. 151145, 7/6/93, released 9/23/93.

Basis of State Guidelines

The U.S Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rejected a challenge to Washington's child support guideline by a group called Parents Opposed to Punitive Support (P.O.P.S.).

The group argued that, although the state's law permits deviations from the guideline, as a practical matter, parents are unable to rebut the standard support obligation, because the state has not revealed the assumptions underlying the guidelines. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals said the state may properly decide that what a parent actually spends is irrelevant. The Constitutional Equal Protection and the Due Process provisions are not violated by such a decision, the court said.

The court assumed for the sake of argument that the state's guideline was not rebuttable, but said that not all irrebutable presumptions are unconstitutional. P.O.P.S. contended that the state had inflated the costs of rearing children, but the court said the state had the power to make value judgments on such issues, provided that they were not arbitrary.

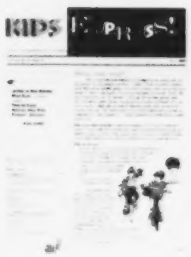
(P.O.P.S. v. Gardner) CA 9, No. 91-36138, 7/29/93.

(These cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter, and appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.)

In Need of Legal Help?

If your case is on appeal, and involves a broad legal principle (such as joint custody/shared parenting, parental kidnapping, or the fairness of some domestic relations law or procedure), CRC may be able to file an amicus curiae (Friend of the Court) brief, as we have done in other state appeal court cases.

Attorneys for CRC are interested in handling these cases on a reasonable fee basis. As mentioned above, we can only consider cases on appeal.



Kids Express Affiliates with CRC

Kids Express, a colorful newsletter whose publisher is Linda Sartori, in Littleton, Colorado, has affiliated with our Children's Rights Council.

This wonderful 8-page newsletter is by, for and about children of divorce. It contains stories and drawings by children, an activities/game/puzzle page, an advice column, and a parents column. When CRC first saw this newsletter, we were favorably impressed with the content, style and layout of the newsletter, which began publishing in September 1992 as a monthly.

Linda Sartori has 15 years experience as a social worker at a public school, and part of her duties has been to help children of divorce. She is married and has two children. Littleton is a suburb south of Denver.

Subscriptions to Kids Express are $20.00 a year; when you subscribe, please mention that you heard about their publication from CRC. Write to

Kids Express
Post Office Box 782
Littleton, CO 80160-0782.

Mention that you are a supporter of CRC.

New Coordinators in Ohio, Pennsylvania

New CRC coordinators have been named in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Kathryn Gibson of Pittsburgh, is CRC's new coordinator in Pennsylvania. She won a CRC "Best in Media" award from CRC in 1992 for her article entitled "Not Mothers Rights, Nor Fathers Rights, but Family Rights," published in the ABA's Family law Advocate that said she could have sole custody, but instead chose joint custody with her ex-husband for the sake of their children.

Continued on page 17

New Coordinators

Continued from page 16

Gibson, who just obtained her M.A. in counseling, is working on plans to develop parenting classes for divorcing parents with the help of judges in Allegheny and Butler Counties.

Margaret Wuwert, a member of the board of the Coalition for Parents Rights Organization (CAPRA), is the new CRC coordinator in Ohio. Wuwert has been married to the same man for 36 years, has four children, and seven grandchildren. She previously worked at the ACES (Association for the Enforcement of Support) national office in Ohio. She believes in CRC's balanced approach of working for access as well as support enforcement, especially because her brother-in-law went through a divorce and paid support but couldn't see his child. Wuwert replaces Cathy Clark, who we thank for handling the coordinator position during an interim period. Coordinators of our state chapters maintain contact by mail exchange and cross-country telephone conference calls between the chapters and CRC national. In this way, chapters can benefit from each other and do not have to constantly "re-invent the wheel".

Chapters exist in 25 states.

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community, write to Eric Anderson, address below, and enclose $15.00 for photocopying and postage.

This 37-page booklet explains everything you want to know about affiliation.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
P.O. Box 27418
Houston, TX 77227-7418
phone (713) 840-1626
Jennifer Isham, president

Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR)
137 Larkin Street
Madison, WI 53705
phone (608) 238-8751
Ethel Dunn, executive director

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 212
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505
(402) 477-7837
Kevin Ricker, president

CRC Chapters

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503
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Gary Maxwell, state coordinator

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Cindy Lewis, state coordinator

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Murray Steinberg, president

Fathers United for Equal Right's and Women's Coalition
P.O. Box 1323
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(703) 451-8580
Paul Robinson, president

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We wish to thank those who have joined, renewed their membership, contributed to CRC, or ordered materials from CRC from April 1, 1993 through September 31, 1993 * Denotes life member of CRC (financial contribution totaling $500 or more).

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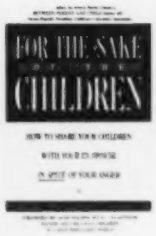

For The Sake Of The Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, Ph.D. Insights and advice on how parents can cooperate after divorce. **BKP-211 – 200 pg. HB $17.95** Kris Kline is the Florida coordinator for the Children's Rights Council.

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. The PAS occurs when one parent denigrates the other parent, and gets the child to join in the denigration. Gardner, a national expert on the PAS, describes the disorder and recommends treatment. 1992 publishing of this material as a separate book for the first time. **BKA-803 – 348 pg. HB $30.00**

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Bulk copies of this newsletter are available (20 for $15, 50 for $30, and 100 for $59) for distribution to policy-makers, judges, and interested persons in your state. Send order to CRC.

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Strengthening Families *Assisting Children of Separation and Divorce*

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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IN THIS ISSUE:

Guidelines 1
About CRC 2
Galston & Ross Hold Meetings 3
Dear Abby 4
Book Reviews 5
New Spokesperson 6
Announcements 6
Neutral Drop-Offs 7
Bills/Resolutions 8
Child Support Bills 10
CRC's View 10
Insurance/College Funds for Children 11
FERPA & Research 11
Inside CRC 12
Court Cases 14
Better Data Sought 15
CRC Responds 15
Chapter News 16
New Chapter 16
Chapters Exist in 26 States 17

Federal Government Distributes CRC Child Support Guideline

A child support guideline prepared by CRC that is based on a child having two parents is being distributed by the federal government this Spring to state legislatures and policy-makers across the country.

This marks the first time that the federal government has ever distributed a guideline that takes into account the direct expenditures on a child by the non-custodial parent.

The guideline is included as Chapter 11 in a book entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation". The book is being published by the Office of Child Support Enforcement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The book was compiled and edited by Margaret Campbell Haynes of the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law.

"CRC's aim is to get this guideline adopted by states around the country," said CRC President David L. Levy. "Having it published in a federal government publication is the first step towards that goal."

CRC had been preparing an alternative guideline for two years, but the impetus for completing the guideline came with the invitation to CRC to contribute to the government publication.

The guideline was completed by Don Bieniewicz, an economist and CRC member, in consultation with Laurie Casey, David K. Garrod, Ph.D., Roger F. Gay, Anna D. Keller, and John E. Siegmund, Esquire.

Bieniewicz

Casey from New York, and Siegmund from Washington, DC, are CRC Senior Policy Analysts. Gay from Texas is a researcher on child support issues, Garrod from Indiana is a child support analyst, and Keller is a CRC vicepresident.

The footnote to the article says, in part, "Mr. Bieniewicz is on the economics staff of the Office of Policy Analysis, U.S. Department of the Interior. This guideline does not reflect government policy. Rather, it was developed...as part of volunteer work done for the Children's Rights Council (CRC). The CRC is a national organization focusing on preserving children's rights to a relationship with both parents and extended family, regardless of the parents' marital situation."

Direct Parenting Considered

The preface to the book says, "In chapter 11, Don Bieniewicz presents a model child support guideline that he developed, in consultation with others, on behalf of the Children's Rights Council. CRC designed the guideline to better recognize the costs of direct parenting by both parents."

Continued on page 4

CRC'S NINTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 1995 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BETHESDA, MARYLAND (the same conference site as in 1993 and 1994). PLEASE ATTEND.

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN is published by the Children's Rignts Council, Inc. Editors: David L. Levy, Elliott H. Diamond.
Contributors to this issue: Paul Robinson, Kenneth Skilling, Stuart Miller, Sonny Burmeister, 1993 college student legislative interns: Kristen Adams (University of Vermont), Rachel Casto (West Virginia Wesleyan), Victoria Gray (University of Alabama), Rita Hill (Smith College), and Brenda Saldeen (Notre Dame).

CRC is a member (Number 1513) of

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nationwide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC favors family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC seeks to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial approach, and providing fair financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 26 states and three national affiliate organizations: Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR), Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, N.E., Washington, D.C, 20002, or call (202) 547-6227. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

Speak Out for Children is published four times a year and is sent free to members. Send letters, comments, and articles for publication to Editor, CRC.

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Galston and Ross Hold Meetings with Activists

Clinton Administration officials are continuing to hold wide-ranging meetings with advocates who favor a child's right to two parents.

White House Assistant Domestic Policy Advisor Bill Galston has held at least 5 meetings with such advocates over the past several months.

One of those meetings, organized by New York dentist Steve Lamberg in December, included CRC officials, writers, researchers (John Guidubaldi, Ph.D., Henry Biller, Ph.D., Richard Warshak, Ph.D.), and Karen DeCrow, a former N.O.W president (See remarks by De Crow below).

Galston

DeCrow told Galston that the government does women "no favor" by giving them sole custody of children in 85% of custody cases nationwide (Census Bureau figures).

During the 2-hour, wide-ranging meeting, Galston noted that a senior Capitol Hill staffer had asked him why he was meeting with advocates of a child's right to two parents.

Galston indicated he was astounded by the question. He thought for a moment, and said "Because my heart goes out to them."

Galston said that now it was the Capitol Hill staffer's turn to be astounded.

"What this means politically in nuance-filled Washington is that if advocates for a child's right to two parents are welcome at the White House, they should be equally welcome in Congress," said CRC President David L. Levy. "Politics operates by perception, and a perception of power counts as much as power itself."

Before he came to the White House, Galston worked for the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), a Washington think tank linked to President Clinton.

Galston had co-authored (with Elaine Kamarck) an article for PPI that the Democratic Party's emphasis on the single-parent family had led Democrats into "a series of policy cul-de-sacs."

The authors recommended more emphasis on the two-parent family.

More meetings with Dr. Galston are expected.

DeCrow's Views

DeCrow

Karen DeCrow, who was president of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) from 1964 to 1967, wrote in a Syracuse (NY) New Times column on January 5, 1994 about the meeting she attended with Galston in December, 1993. DeCrow wrote, in part:

"Putting aside the foolish ego gratification of being invited (to the White House), I was pleased to present my long-held ideas on the subject of equal parenting. If we are to end the battle between the sexes—in a manner which will ensure fairness, decency and civility—we must address the issue of shared parenting. Of all the areas of life which cause strife between women and men, this one is the most contentious....

"If there is a divorce in the family, I urge a presumption of joint custody of the children. Whereas it is impossible to change thousands of years of sex-role stereotyping through legislation, we can hope, in an existential fashion, that attitudes can be changed through education and the passage of laws.

"The Clinton administration has been dedicated to gender equality from the first moments of the campaign. Part of ending sexism involves eliminating the inhuman practice of awarding a parent 'visitation' to his or her own child.

"Shared parenting is not only fair to men and to children, it is the best option for women. After observing women's rights and responsibilities for more than a quarter-century of feminist activism, I conclude that shared parenting is great for women, giving time and opportunity for female parents to pursue education, training, jobs, careers, professions and leisure.

"There is nothing scientific, logical or rational to excluding the men, and forever holding the women and children, as if in swaddling clothes themselves, in eternal loving bondage. Most of us have acknowledged that women can do everything that men can do. It is now time to acknowledge that men can do everything women can do."

David Gray Ross, the new director of the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has also held meetings with child and family advocates, as has David Ellwood, director of policy and planning at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other high-level political officials.

Meetings Arranged by Harrington

Some of the meetings with Galston and Ross have been organized by Bill Harrington, head of the American Fathers Coalition, an organization he and others formed last year. Harrington, who lives in Takoma, Washington, has flown to Washington several times since last Fall for meetings at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

The American Fathers Coalition is sponsoring a Fathers Day Rally Saturday, June 18, 12 noon, at the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C. For information, write to: AFC, 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 148, Washington, D.C. 20006 or phone (202) 255-2428 fax (703) 255-2454.

Continued on page 6

Guideline

Continued from page 1

The description provided by CRC in Chapter 11 says:

"The guideline is more accurate in that it makes greater use of actual data on the cost of providing for children. It utilizes the actual amount paid by the parents for certain categories of cost, such as the children's medical insurance. It relies on estimates of the marginal (incremental) cost of children in single-parent households (the situation that exists post-separation or where the parents never married) for other discrete cost categories, such as 'housing' and 'food'.

"The guideline is structured to be rebuttable when appropriate...

"The guideline acknowledges and credits the cost of direct parenting by both parents. Most guidelines ignore the direct costs of the children to the noncustodial parent. Recognizing such costs is more equitable and will encourage important direct parenting by the noncustodial parent.

"The guideline eliminates the 'cliff effect' of guidelines that inappropriately assume no cost of the children to the noncustodial parent below some fixed number of days of care for the children. It does this by identifying certain "fixed costs" to the noncustodial parent, such as medical insurance and housing, that are constant year-round, and other 'shiftable costs,' such as food, that shift smoothly and continuously to the noncustodian as the amount of time the noncustodian spends caring for the children increases from 0 to 365 days per year.

"The guideline better maintains work incentives. For example, income from work by each parent beyond some set number of hours per week, e.g., 50 hours, is not counted for the purpose of calculation of child support.

"The guideline does not specifically address second families. The CRC view is that multiple approaches are possible, provided that the objective is to strike a balance such that each and every child of a parent is treated as having an equal call on the resources of that parent.

"This CRC guideline is more detailed than some existing guidelines, in particular, those that simply award a fixed percentage of the noncustodial parent's gross income. This is because the CRC views simple percent-of-gross-income guidelines as having too many liabilities to be acceptable. Such guidelines fail to consider, respect, and encourage parenting by the noncustodial parent.

"Also, they are too crude—at high incomes generating support awards that are well beyond the reasonable needs of the children, and at low incomes possibly yielding support awards that fail to meet children's basic needs. They can also generate awards that are unpayable because they exceed net income, which is why percent-of-gross-income is not used as the method for federal taxation".

Officials Extend Invitation

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) invited CRC to submit the guideline for the federal publication.

Officials at OCSE administer the access/visitation demonstration grants that were awarded to states under the 1988 Family Support Act. CRC helped get Congress to fund the access grants in Section 504 of the 1988 Family Support Act.

"HHS has come to see that the access demonstration grants, particularly the one administered by Dick Woods in Iowa, are reasonable and necessary," said Levy. "Federal officials, and Bob Williams and Jessica Pearson, the independent evaluators of the grants, have come to see a child's right to two parents, and those who work for it, in a more positive light. One step leads to another. Networking and working within the system has again produced results."

Ron Henry, Esquire, the Washington lawyer who does pro bono work on behalf of child advocates, said, "Now that the government is publishing the CRC model guideline, activists in the states should get a copy, and work to get that guideline implemented in their states, in lieu of the guidelines now being followed."

People interested in obtaining a copy of the publication should phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, DC 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for nonmembers, including shipping and handling.

"Dear Abby" Mentions CRC

"Dear Abby" mentioned CRC in her nationwide column January 4, 1994. Here is the portion of the column:

DEAR ABBY: We are always reading about unwed mothers who give up their children for adoption. What about the fathers of these children? Have they no rights?

I am the father of a baby boy born out of wedlock. I would have given my right arm to have raised that child, but had no say in the matter: he was given to strangers who adopted him.

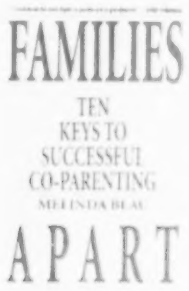
I went to court over this — and lost. We hear so much about "women's rights": what about men's rights? The system stinks. — DISGUSTED IN TEXAS

DEAR DISGUSTED: The "stinking" system has been deodorized. Some fathers have sued for custody of their children — and won. There are now organizations that promote a child's right to have both a mother and a father. The one with which I am the most familiar is the Children's Rights Council. 220 Eye St. N.E., Suite 230. Washington. D.C. 20002-4362. The council recently published a book titled "The Best Parent Is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century." edited by David Levy. The price is $9.95.

Book Reviews

By CRC Staff

Families A*P*A*R*T: Ten Keys to Successful Co-Parenting, by Melinda Blau. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 350 pages, $22.95.



This excellent book relates the ways in which Melinda Blau and her ex-husband managed to establish their own "Family Apart". But the book doesn't stop there. It shows how many other successful co-parents "make it work," and synthesizes the best advice of mental health professionals around the country.

The book describes what tasks are necessary to move your family from one phase of separation and divorce to the next, through all the events that continue to bring you together in your children's lives—long after your legal divorce.

The Ten "Keys", each one of which is built around a chapter in the book, are: Heal Yourself After Divorce, Act Maturely, Listen to Your Children, Respect Each Other as Parents, Divide Parenting Time, Accept Each Other's Differences, Communicate about (and with) the Children, Step Outside Traditional Gender Roles, Anticipate and Accept Change, and Know That Co-Parenting is Forever.

Those keys, with a sentence or two describing them, should be on the wall of every divorce court, or handed out to every divorcing couple with children.

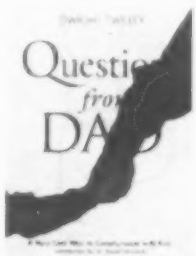
Of course, it's easy to say those 10 Keys, but another for a parent to carry them out while going through the bitterness and anger of a divorce. Who can act maturely when caught up in a court battle over their children? Or respect someone as a parent while they are bitter or angry over the break-up of the marriage?

"Although many parents in the aftermath of divorce suffer from temporary insanity," Blau writes, "many of us manage to get past it, or, at least, to act as if we had—for the sake of the children. And then we get down to the business of being parents again, with the very person that we once thought we would (pardon the pun) "ex" out of our lives."

Good observation; and Blau backs it up with an understanding of research data, which is another reason why this book will be useful to both parents and professionals who guide parents through the thickets of divorce.

Blau, a 1989 "Best in Media" award winner from CRC for an article in New York Magazine on family therapy, called "In It Together", continues to instruct with this powerful book.

Questions from Dad: A Very Cool Way to Communicate with Kids, by Dwight Twilley. Charles E. Tuttle Company, 192 pages, $16.95.



The first thing that impresses you about this book is the cover: an almost Michelangelo-like grasping of hands between father and child (it could be a boy or a girl. Dwight's only child is daughter Dionne). And the second thing is the inside of the book, with delightful drawings (by Dwight and Dionne) that fairly leap out at you from uncrowded pages with clear type that wraps around the illustrations.

And all this before you even get to the marvelous instructive material of the book! The "Questions" were part of letters Dwight has written to his daughter, mostly discussing fun things, but inserting serious topics here and there, in a non-threatening way.

Dionne, in turn, was encouraged to write letters to her dad. Their closeness and communication grew, while Dwight, a pop singer and recording artist, was on the road, following a divorce from Dionne's mom. Best known for his hits "I'm on Fire" and "Girls", Dwight has released numerous albums on the Shelter, Arista, EMI and DCC record labels. The entertaining text was concisely edited by producer Joe Klein.

" 'Questions from Dad' will act as a key to the wonders of childhood—it will be a touching journey for both of you," writes well-known psychotherapist Susan Forward, Ph.D., in the book's introduction.

And it's not just for dad's. "What a wonderful idea—excellent for grandparents separated from their beloved grandchildren!" says Ethel Dunn, Director, Grandparents United for Children's Rights, in a blurb on the jacket cover.

And from Charles A. Ballard, Founder of the National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood & Family Development Center, Cleveland, Ohio: "Perhaps the greatest endorsement (for this book) comes from my six year old daughter, who often climbs up in my lap and asks me to read Mr. Twilley's questionnaires to her."

And from Jennifer Isham, president of Mothers Without Custody: "An innovative approach to encouraging a long-distance parent-child relationship."

Yes, this book offers a fun way to communicate with your child, whether the child lives with you or is long-distance. A fine book to dip into whenever the mood strikes.

(Both of the above books may be ordered from CRC. Add $3.00 for S/H for one book,.50 cents each additional book).

Supernaw Accepts As A Spokesperson for CRC

Supernaw

Country music performer Doug Supernaw, whose single recording and video tape entitled "I Don't Call Him Daddy" has received national airplay, has accepted the role of a national spokesperson for CRC.

Supernaw, nominated as New Male Artist of the Year and for Song of the Year by the Academy of Country Music, and video of the year by Music City News, performed at CRC's Conference in April.

Supernaw, who wrote "I Don't Call Him Daddy" during a period of separation from his wife, said one couple told him they pulled their marriage back together because the video made them think about what the breakup could mean. Supernaw and his wife have four children.

Roger Doeren, CRC coordinator in Kansas/Missouri, first approached Supernaw, asking for permission to air the "I Don't Call Him Daddy" video prior to a free screening of the "Mrs. Doubtfire" movie in Kansas City.

Supernaw says of CRC, "The group doesn't say that mothers are right all the time, or that fathers are right all the time. What they believe is that, for children to be happy, adults have to share the responsibility for custody and visitation. It's like the song says, "God bless the little hearts, they're the ones that really pay, when Mom and Dad can't get along and they go their separate ways.' Now, I don't claim to be a child expert. Far from it. But I do feel it's a real privilege to use my success to help people sit up and take notice about an issue that's so important."

"We welcome Doug Supernaw to the cause of children's rights and CRC," said CRC President David L. Levy. "And we thank Roger Doeren for his efforts."

Galston & Ross

Continued from page 3

Ross supports "Two Parents and Four Grandparents" for Kids

David Gray Ross

In a separate development, David Gray Ross, on January 24, 1994, his first day as head of the Office of Child Support Enforcement at HHS, wrote a letter to the 40,000 employees of the Office across the country. Ross's letter is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Washington, D.C. 20447

January 24, 1994

Dear Fellow Employees of the
Office of Child Support Enforcement

On this, my first official day in office, I wanted to write and tell you how excited I am about working with you in the area of child support enforcement. On February 18, 1969, I joined the Office of the Corporation Counsel in the District of Columbia and was assigned to the Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Unit. I have been deeply involved in the area of family law ever since. To be given the opportunity to administer and guide the national child support effort is a real challenge and privilege.

As we begin our new adventure together, please be assured that I value your experience, your knowledge, and your commitment. At the same time, you will be pleased to know that this Administration is committed to trying new ways. Sometimes we allow ourselves to take the easy route since it has proven successful in the past. I encourage you to think about "new ways" of doing things and sharing your thoughts with others. As the budget dollar shrinks, we must invent new methods of providing improved service.

Regarding our mission, my personal theme as a family court judge these many years has been "children first". Obviously, our mandated mission is to "collect child support". But I want it to be more than that. The adjudication of paternity and the imposition and collection of child support gives both parents the opportunity to be involved in the lives of their children. Children need and deserve two parents, four grandparents, and extended families. From close observation these past twenty-eight years, I am convinced that "where the pocketbook is, there the heart shall be also". To that end, everything we do must be done in the interest of our children.

In closing, permit me to say "thank you" to Bob Harris who has served as the Acting Deputy Director for these many months. I look forward to his continued counsel.

Looking forward to working with you on behalf of the children of America in the days ahead, I remain,

Respectfully,

David Gray Ross
Deputy Director

CRC Note: The head of the Child Support Office is called the "Deputy Director."

Announcements

National Coalition of Grandparents

The National Coalition of Grandparents, Inc., will meet on Solomon's Island, Maryland, May 19-22. For information, contact Ethel Dunn, 137 Larkin Street, Madison, WI 53705, (608) 238-8751.

The Stepfamily Association of America

The Stepfamily Association of America will hold its annual conference at Bally's in Las Vegas July 17-20, 1994. Registration is $105 for the first adult, $95 for the second adult, and $50 for each child. Add $15 for each adult non-member and $10 for each child of non-members. Call 1-800) 735-0329 for additional information.

National Congress for Men and Children (NCMC)

The National Congress for Men and Children will hold its annual conference August 25-28 at the Bradley Sheraton Hotel at the Bradley Airport, in Windsor Locks, CT. Speakers will include Warren Farrell, the author of the book entitled "The Myth of Male Power." For information, call NCMC at 1-800-733-DADS or contact George Kelly, (413) 736-5697.

Neutral Drop-Offs May Become "Neutral"

A proposed amendment to the Wellstone/Sabo bill has been developed by a coalition or child advocacy organizations, including the Children's Rights Council, the Children's Rights Coalition (headquartered in Austin, Texas), and the Supervised Visitation Network, an organization representing 80 visitation centers around the country.

The proposed amendment, which would permit organizations other than domestic violence shelters to administer supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up for children, is being considered by a House subcommittee headed by Congressman Major Owens (D-NY).

Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) sponsored a bill that would have authorized $15 million over three years only to domestic violence shelters to administer neutral drop-off and pick-up of children and supervised visitation.

A bill with the same provisions was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-WI).

Sabo

Child activists in Washington worked closely with Robert Straus, a psychologist and lawyer in Massachusetts, who is the director of the Supervised Visitation Network, to develop the amendment.

Initially, the Washington activists and the Network were working on parallel tracks on Capitol Hill, unaware of each other's efforts to convince members of Congress on the need to amend the bill.

Finally, however, they became aware of each other's similar interests, and joined forces. "Joining forces increases the chance that the amendment to the Wellstone/Sabo bill will be adopted," said CRC President David L. Levy.

The crime bill passed by the Senate last November included the Wellstone provision, which authorized grants of up to $30 million to domestic violence shelters to administer supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up centers for children.

The Wellstone provision was subject to a hearing before Sen. Chris Dodd's Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism on October 28, and tacked onto the crime bill 11 days later (see Congressional Record, Monday, November 8, 1993, page S15242).

At the hearing, Dodd said that non-custodial fathers were not the only ones responsible for visitation problems, and that there was more to visitation problems than domestic violence, but his words were not reported in most media stories of the hearing, and were not reflected in the legislation.

The media reported that Sheila Wellstone, the senator's wife, was the catalyst behind the bill. CRC and Dick Woods, administrator of a $300,000 federal access grant, part of which is being spent to identify and diagnose visitation problems, were not allowed to testify at the hearing, but they issued a statement at the hearing. The statement said that domestic violence shelters have little or no experience in supervised visitation or neutral drop-offs, and that schools, day care centers or people's homes would be more "neutral" places for children involved in such programs than sites selected by domestic violence shelters.

Funding Proposed for Groups

The statement urged that the many divorced parents' support groups across the country with experience in either supervised visitation or neutral drop-off or pick-up be eligible for funds for this purpose.

In the 1988 Family Support Act, Congress authorized $2 million for access/visitation demonstration grants.

The state programs which received this funding, and which have developed experience at handling neutral drop-off and pick-up of children would not be allowed to qualify for the funding unless the Wellstone/Sabo proposal is amended.

Write to your Senator or House member, urging adoption of the amendment by child activists to the Wellstone/Sabo bill. It is important that you send a copy of your letter to CRC, so that we can emphasize your support when we visit offices on Capitol Hill.

Write to members of Congress as follows:

Representative —
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Senator —
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Say that if the bill goes to conference committee, with a provision for funding to include groups with experience in handling supervised visitation, and neutral drop-off and pick-up points, you want your Senator and Representative to support the broader funding.

IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER CREDIT CARD TO YOU, BUT IT'S A DONATION FOR US

Every time you use your CRC card, the CRC receives a contribution at no extra cost to you. In addition, here are some of the valuable benefits you will enjoy:

- A special 15.9% variable Annual Percentage Rate (APR).†
- Issued free of an annual fee the first year, and just $40 for the Visa® Gold card and $20 for the Visa® Classic card each year thereafter.

APPLY TODAY! 1-800-847-7378, ext. 400

Please be sure to use this priority code when calling: LYRF

†Transaction fee for bank and ATM cash advances: 2% of each cash advance; $2 minimum; $25 Maximum MBNA America® is a federally registered Service Mark of MBNA America Bank, N.A. Visa® is a federally registered Service Mark of Visa U.S.A., Inc. used pursuant to license.

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or person to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives; S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or to express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views. The capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the offices of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). This is a 24-hour switchboard, that can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress, and even sometimes names of staff night and day. During normal business hours on weekdays, the switchboard can connect you with any Congressional office on Capitol Hill. You may also wish to contact the Congressmembers' local branch office in your district for information.

For the first time, we are reporting on the bills by subject matter; we thank Paul Robinson for the suggestion to categorize the bills this way for ease of reference. (CRC's comments are in parentheses below).

As part of the Clinton Administration budget bill, passed by a narrow margin in August, Congress approved a child support provision that sets up a hospital-based program for the voluntary acknowledgement of paternity during a period immediately preceding or following the birth of a child.

Although CRC favors paternity establishment, whether or not a gender-based custody system is created will depend on the forms adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Laurie Casey, CRC senior policy analyst, has developed gender-balanced forms. Obtain a copy from Laurie at P.O. Box 81, Moriah Center, NY 12961, phone (518) 942-3366. Send $5 for postage and handling. Then send the forms with a cover letter urging their adoption to David Gray Ross, Director, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Financial Child Support

S. 689, the comprehensive "Bradley bill" (named for its primary sponsor, Sen. Bill Bradley, D-NJ), which would require the states to revoke professional, business, and drivers licenses of parents who owe support, referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

See also H.R. 1600, sponsored by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ), (referred to Consumer Credit and Insurance Subcommittee of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8872 (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).

S. 922 would authorize only the state where the child is living to modify a child support order. Introduced by Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), referred to Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice of House Judiciary Committee (202) 224-4933. A similar bill, S. 532, has been introduced by Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM), and referred to the same subcommittee.

S. 967, to provide for the Internal Revenue Service to collect financial child support. Introduced by Sen. Richard Shelby (D-AL). Referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

H.R. 454, which affects jurisdiction for child support cases, passed by the House, being considered by the Senate. Discussed in Summer/Fall 1993 "Speak Out for Children."

H.R. 555, to ensure that any overdue child support obligations are reported to consumer credit agencies. Sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

H.R. 619, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to assure the completeness and accuracy of consumer information maintained by credit reporting agencies, by including debts owed in the form of unpaid child support by non-custodial parents. Introduced by Rep. McCandless (R-CA), referred to subcommittee on Consumer Credit Service of Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (202) 225-8872.

H.R. 915, would, in regard to child support, deny business and professional licenses to obligors, provide for credit bureau reporting. Introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO.), referred to Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8951. (See H. Res. 23 below).

H.R. 1961, similar to the Bradley bill to revoke occupational, professional and business licenses, and revoke drivers' licenses for those who owe child support; would authorize the IRS to collect child support. The bill would also establish a National Child Support Guidelines Commission; and provide for international child support enforcement. Introduced by Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), referred to Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Post Office and Civil Service, and House Administration.

H.R. 1995, would amend the IRS code to allow an exemption where a noncustodial parent provides over half of the support of the child for a calendar year to claim such child as a dependent. The bill was introduced by Rep. Harold Volkmer (D-MO), and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means (202) 255-3625. (Current law gives the child exemption to the custodial parent regardless of the parents' relative support contributions).

Mc Dermott

H.R. 2241, would provide for the establishment of a committee to assist the Secretary of Health and Human Services in developing new criteria and standards for audits of state child support programs, and require the Secretary to promulgate regulations to modify such audits to emphasize program outcomes. Introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), and referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.(This bill would provide for accountability of state child support programs).

H.R. 2355, to require a parent who is delinquent in child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income, and to allow custodial parents a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments. Introduced by Rep. Cox, referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

H.R. 2396, to increase access of state child support enforcement agencies to certain financial information of non-custodial parents, and to encourage states to improve their enforcement of child support obligations. Introduced by Rep. Olympia Snow, referred to Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee; and Ways and Means Committee.

Access/Visitation

S. 870, the Wellstone bill, that would authorize domestic violence shelters to handle supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up for children of divorce. Passed as part of the Senate crime bill, see story on page 7.

The House version, introduced by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN), is H.R. 2573 (referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and the Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights (202) 226-7532, headed by Congressman Major Owens.

Family Preservation

S. 561, Child and Family Services and Law Enforcement Partnership Act, designed to prevent community violence by facilitating interaction between child and family service organizations, law enforcement agencies, local educational agencies, and other community organizations, ways to help prevent violence, and to provide services to those who have witnessed violence. Sponsored by Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT), and passed by Senate as part of the Crime bill, S. 1607.

Rockefeller

S. 596, the comprehensive "Rockefeller bill", named for its primary sponsor, Sen. John J. Rockefeller, (D-WV). This family preservation and child protection reform act would provide funds to provide services to help prevent abuse, neglect and family disintegration; would fund intensive family preservation programs designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain with their families (including adoptive families). Referred to Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

H. Res. 23, to re-establish the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. Introduced by Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CO), referred to the Committee on Rules. Most committees in Congress are permanent committees, but several committees are "select", which means they have to be re-authorized and re-funded by Congress every two years. Last year, Congress abolished four "select" committees, including the Select Hunger Committee, and the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, contending that permanent committees could do the work of the select committees. (When she was chairman of the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, Congresswoman Schroeder wrote to various CRC supporters, saying that it was important that children have two parents, but she declined to hold any hearings on this issue, and she has introduced a child support bill that only deals with financial child support, not parenting. See H.R. 915 above).

Burton

H. Res. 236, declares that "whereas the current breakdown of the traditional American family is a major factor contributing to the rise of crime, teen pregnancy, educational failure, substance abuse, and suicide among our nation's youth....(and) whereas it is in the interest of society and government to adopt policies that help families stay together by strengthening and sustaining fathers and mothers in fulfilling their parental roles," organizations and governmental bodies are urged to recognize July 28, 1994 as Parents Day. Introduced by Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), and passed by Congress (CRC supported this Resolution).

H.R. 455, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove the barriers and disincentives in the program of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) that prevent recipients of such aid from moving toward self-sufficiency. Introduced by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), referred to Subcommittee on Human Resources of Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625. This bill is expected to be incorporated into the forthcoming Welfare Reform bill.

H.R. 520, the Link-Up for Learning Act, would provide programs for at-risk youth, with the goal of improving their educational performance. Sponsored by Lita Lowey (D-CA.) (202) 225-6506.

Shaw

H.R. 741, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to provide welfare families with the education, training, job search, and work experience to prepare them to leave welfare within two years, to authorize states to conduct demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of policies designed to help people leave welfare and increase their financial security. Introduced by Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means (202) 225-1025.

H.R. 1019, to provide grants to improve the quality and availability of comprehensive education, health and social services for at-risk youth and their families, and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters, Committees on Education and Labor, and Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 1800, to provide set-aside programs for pregnant teenagers that include health care, job training, mentor support and counselling services. Introduced by Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA), referred to Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Educational Committee of Committee on Education and Labor (202) 225-4368.

Tax Code

S. 154, to ensure that any peace dividend is invested in America's families and deficit reduction. Sec. 606A states "The Secretary of the Treasury shall increase the personal exemption for individuals as determined under section 151 of the IRS code of 1986..." Introduced by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), referred to Committee on Budget (202) 224-0642 and Committee on Governmental Affairs (202) 224-4751.

S. 434, to amend the IRS code to allow taxpayers a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments and to require the inclusion in income of child support payments which a taxpayer does not pay—thus taxing the obligor twice (The obligor already pays tax on income that should have been allocated for child support, and this bill would tax him or her again for those portions not paid). Sponsored by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AK), referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4525.

Wolf

H.R. 435, to provide tax relief for families, by providing an additional $600 tax deduction for a family for each child under age 19. No provision for who would be eligible for this increased deduction in cases of divorce. Introduced by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.

S. 939, to amend the IRS code to simplify the definition of dependent, to provide a uniform definition of child, and for other purposes. Introduced by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), referred to the Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

H.R. 773, the "Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act of 1993" would amend the IRS code and the Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to state enforcement of financial child support and to require the IRS to collect support through wage withholding. Introduced by Rep. Hyde (R-IL), referred to subcommittee on Human Resources (202) 225-1025 of the House Judiciary Committee.

Domestic Violence

S.6, Sexual Assault Prevention Act of 1993, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole, designed to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women. This bill was absorbed in part by S. 11, "The Biden Bill," the Violence Against Women Act, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and was incorporated into the $22 billion crime bill passed by the Senate. Provides $1.8 billion to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women, and to establish a national task force on violence against women.

H.R. 522, to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline. Sec. 2(2) states that the hotline shall provide "victims of domestic violence needed access to resources which will refer such victims and their children to safe homes and shelters." Introduced by Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD), and referred to Select Education and Civil Rights Subcommittee (202) 226-7532.

Custody

S. 6, sponsored by Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS), and H.R. 688, sponsored by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), express the sense of Congress that joint custody should not be given to spouse abusers. Congress passed a similar joint custody resolution several years ago sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) (if Congress is going to enter the custody area, traditionally reserved for the states, it should recommend joint custody—shared parenting—as a first option for fit parents, especially as the Census Bureau reports that parents with joint custody and visitation pay far more in financial support than parents without joint custody and visitation. Congress is expected to consider strong financial support legislation this year, and so statistics on who pays and why is important for Congress to factor into its deliberations).

S. 8, to control and prevent crime. Section 2262(2) of the bills says "joint custody forced upon hostile parents can create a damaging

Continued on page 10

Summary of Financial Child Support Bills

Four major child support bills (mentioned above) are expected to be considered by Congress as part of welfare reform in the coming months. The bills have been introduced by Sen. Bradley (D-NJ), along with a companion House bill introduced by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ). Similar bills have been introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) and Barbara Kennelly (D-CT). Bradley's bill is S. 689, Roukema's bill is H.R. 1600, Schroeder's bill is H.R. 915, and Kennelly's bill is H.R. 1961. The following provisions cover the range of provisions authorized by various portions of those four bills. Not all of these provisions are in all four bills:

- require the states to establish procedures for withholding professional or occupational licenses from noncustodial parents who owe support;
- require the states to deny driver's licenses to parents who owe support;
- authorize attachment by states of bank accounts of obligor parents;
- authorize IRS assistance in collection of support arrearages;
- authorize attachment of public and private retirement funds;
- require the states to provide criminal penalties for non-support;
- require the federal government to fund child support assurance demonstration projects, under which the government would provide a minimum assistance to a custodial parent and child if sufficient support is not being paid; the government would still attempt to collect the support.
- require support to continue until the age of 18 or until a child graduates from a secondary school;
- require the states to give courts discretionary power to order child support up to age 22 if a child attends a college or vocational school;
- require social security numbers on marriage licenses and child support orders;
- allow state child support agencies to access and use credit reporting agencies;
- establish laws which provide for a rebuttable presumption that the choice made by the obligee of health care insurance for the children is appropriate;
- tighten parental establishment procedures at hospitals;
- establish a "National Child Support Guidelines Commission";
- expand the Parent Locator System to include visitation orders. At present, the Parent Locator System can only be used to find the location of parents who owe financial child support, and in parental kidnapping cases.

The bill implements many of the recommendations of the Interstate Child Support Commission's report which was issued in 1992.

For information on the committees handling these bills see page 8.

CRC's View

CRC has decided to oppose these bills, following consultation with our state chapter coordinators, because increased government regulation of only the financial child support aspects are worsening the problem for children.

CRC's position is based partly on the following:

- "From a federal budget perspective, Child Support Enforcement is an expensive disappointment," says a report issued in June, 1992 by Republican House members E. Clay Shaw, Nancy L. Johnson and Fred Grandy.
- A report provided by the General Accounting Office at the request of Congresswomen Marge Roukema and Barbara Kennelly and Senator Bill Bradley, released January 9, 1992 stated that 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the fathers say it is because the fathers were unable to pay. This data is not reflected in the legislation.

"The bills proposed by Congress are a band-aid approach to treating the symptoms rather than the cause of problems in our nation," said Elliott H. Diamond, a co-founder of CRC. "The cause is the lack of government encouragement of the two parent family."

Bills & Resolutions

Continued from page 9

psychological environment for a child," while Section 2262(5) says "It is the sense of the Congress that, for the purpose of determining child custody, evidence establishing that a parent engages in physical abuse of a spouse should create a statutory presumption that it is detrimental to the child to be placed in the custody of the abusive spouse." Introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), referred to Judiciary Committee (202) 224-5225.

H.R. 688, similar to S. 8 (above). Introduced by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), referred to the subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice of House Judiciary Committee (202) 226-2406.

In Need of Legal Help?

If your case is on appeal, and involves a broad legal principle (such as joint custody/shared parenting, parental kidnapping, or the fairness of some domestic relations law or procedure), CRC may be able to file an amicus curiae (Friend of the Court) brief, as we have done in other state appeal court cases.

Attorneys for CRC are interested in handling these cases on a reasonable fee basis. As mentioned above, we can only consider cases on appeal.

Insurance and College Funds for Your Child

CRC has long worked for public policy and legal changes to ensure emotional and financial support for children. Two aspects of financial support that can help children are health insurance and college education money.

Health Insurance

CRC wrote several months ago to Hillary Rodham Clinton's health panel, to discuss the difficulty that some parents have in obtaining health insurance for themselves and their children after divorce. We pointed out that if a person has reduced assets, it may be more difficult to afford insurance. And there are some companies that will not carry health insurance for the child only—they will require an adult to be on the policy.

CRC urged the Clinton Administration to find ways to expand the health insurance options for children of divorce and unwed parents. The Clinton health plan, which is supposed to make health insurance available for everyone, is currently being debated in Congress. Alternative proposals to the Clinton plan have also been introduced in Congress.

Aside from whatever Congress may approve, CRC is applying to a major insurance carrier to provide an opportunity for CRC members to secure individual major medical coverage through local agents for themselves and their children—or such insurance just for their children.

David Dinn, CRC's Indiana coordinator, is working on this project, and we expect news in the next newsletter on who you can contact to obtain coverage.

College Education

CRC's book "The Best Parent is Both Parents" states (on page 92) that "A closely involved parent will want to support a child through college or provide other stepping stones to adulthood that meet that child's needs. Encouraging this involvement will succeed better than obligating divorced parents beyond the level that parents are obligated in intact marriages."

In addition to encouraging such frequent and continuing contact between a child and both parents, we wish to share information about an insurance plan we are making available to CRC supporters that can help pay for your child's college education.

The plan involves purchasing a whole life policy on your child, which is different from taking out life insurance on yourself so as to provide for your child in the event of your death.

A parent, as policy owner for the policy on the child, is responsible for the premium payments and designation of the beneficiaries. The parent is also responsible for the use and stewardship of the cash value as it accumulates tax-deferred over time in the policy.

The cash value can be used for any major expense, including college education, as the parent so determines. Even if the child is a teen when the policy is taken out, it is possible to use cash value (in the form of a loan) to pay the parent back for the cost of the child's education.

The cash value can also be borrowed to provide for anything else the parent believes appropriate in his or her capacity as the policy owner.

Whole life, which parents can use as a form of "forced savings," features level payments which never increase over time. Any dividends can be used to purchase more insurance, and the cash value may be withdrawn tax-free (technically as a loan on the policy) for any use.

When the child is an adult, parents often transfer ownership of the policy to the child at the same annual premium. The child can maintain the policy until his/her retirement and the cash value once again accumulates to contribute to the child's retirement.

Continued on page 13

FERPA and Research

In connection with college, non-custodial parents are generally a step removed from the day-to-day lives of their children, often do not know what is happening in school, and are often not included in child/parent/teacher events at school.

Non-custodial parents should request that they be informed equally with the custodial parent of school events, mailing of report cards, etc. Sending a supply of self-addressed envelopes to the school can help with this process.

Federal law (called FERPA—the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) requires that non-custodial parents be provided with their child's school record. If your school balks at providing you with your child's school record, contact the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605, phone (202) 732-1807. Compliance office officials will contact the school to let them know of federal requirements.

If your child plans to attend college, students should take the PSAT in their junior year of high school, to be considered for merit scholarships. College source books should be consulted starting in the junior year, also. Waiting until the senior year of high school may mean that certain scholarships and other funding source deadlines have passed, although most funding sources deadlines are not until the last half of the senior year in high schoool.

Inside CRC

Mrs. Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton has sent CRC a letter saying that she has added "The Best Parent is Both Parents" to her personal library.

"What a difference it would make if more children had the benefit of two loving parents to nurture and guide them!" Ms. Clinton said in the letter, reproduced below.

"We are delighted to receive Mrs. Clinton's endorsement," said David L. Levy, the editor of the book, "and would be grateful for policy-making follow-through."

The 157-page book, ISBN 1-878901-56-7, contains contributions from CRC writers and researchers, and is designed to help individuals and professionals with useful information on shared parenting, access/visitation, and financial child support.

The book contains a substantial number of references to research that can be used in working out an agreement with a separating spouse, or if legal proceedings develop.

Although you can order individual copies of the book from CRC or from the publisher, we prefer that you ask your favorite bookstore to order copies. Bookstores will generally order 5 or 10 copies if you honestly tell them that you are a supporter of CRC. Bookstores like this "tie-in"—it shows them that the book is supported in the local community. The retail price of the book is $9.95.

Copies on the shelves will be seen by other people who browse the bookstore, and thus increase sales. Information about CRC, as well as the names, addresses and phone numbers of CRC chapters are listed in the back of the book. The names of CRC advisors are also provided.

THE WHITE HOUSE

December 2, 1993

David L. Levy, Esquire
President
Children's Rights Council
Suite 230
220 Eye Street, Northeast
Washington, D C 20002

Dear David:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing me a copy of your book, The Best Parent is Both Parents. I do appreciate having this volume for my personal library. What a difference it would make if more children had the benefit of two loving parents to nurture and guide them!

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hillary

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is now a partner in the newly-revamped law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT. 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Investment Accounts

Barry Ringelheim, a CRC member, an investment counselor with the Barney Shearson and Lehman investment firm, will invest your contribution to CRC in a money market account, and also advise you on your personal investment needs. Barry can be reached in New York City at 1-800-635-0013.

Psychologist Available for Expert Testimony

Dr. Israel Lichtenstein, Ed.D., licensed clinical psychologist, researcher and CRC member, has published materials on joint custody, and has appeared in many court cases as an expert witness on joint custody. He helped write the Ohio joint custody bill (Senate bill 3) that allows judges to award joint custody over the objections of a parent. He may be reached at Marriage and Divorce Counseling Center, 2100 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219, phone (513) 651-9994.

Computer Technology Services

Steve Chan, who has helped CRC with its computer system, is knowledgeable in computer technology, and has also served as an expert witness in computer procurement cases on the federal level. Mr. Chan is at Uniprime Systems, Inc., P.O.Box 3247, Baltimore, MD. 21228, phone (410) 747-7510.

Doris Jonas Freed Dies

Longtime CRC Advisor Doris Jonas Freed died on July 30, 1993. Freed, who was 91, had been co-chair of the New York State Bar

Continued on page 13

Inside CRC

Continued from page 12

Association Family Law Section's Custody Committee. She was also a well-known writer on domestic relations issues.

Charity Drive Thank You

CRC again thanks everyone who designated CRC (number 1513) in the nationwide federal government charity drive last Fall. Those funds help maintain CRC throughout the year. Thank you.

Volunteers, Materials, Services Needed

CRC needs an executive officer in its Washington, D.C. office. The executive officer would help to shape CRC policy, answer replies, and manage the CRC office. Someone would need to spend at least one or two days a week at the CRC office, although this time could be flexible to work around a person's schedule.

CRC also needs more help on Capitol Hill. We need people who can spend an hour, a morning, a few lunch hours visiting Congressional offices, explaining CRC's position on bills, proposing amendments, and monitoring legislation. Also, are you interested in filing or clerical work or filling book orders, evenings, weekends or during the day.

We also need help with public relations, fund-raising, membership development, tax issues affecting the family, research and writing--in Washington, and in our chapters around the country. If you are interested, please contact CRC, or one of the chapters.

Or, if you are a CRC member, would you like to start a CRC chapter in your state? If so, write to Eric Anderson, CRC chapter coordinator, at 12103 Scribe Drive, Austin, Texas, 78759. Enclose $10.00 for photocopying and postage of CRC's 37 page booklet on chapter development. If you can donate materials to CRC, such as computers, typewriters, fax machines, or telephones, we can use them at our national office in Washington, D.C. or give them to our chapters around the country. And you can obtain a tax deduction for your contribution.

If you know of an accounting firm that does audits for non-profit groups, and the firm would consider doing an annual audit for CRC pro bono or at a reduced rate, please let us know. We currently pay a substantial amount of money for our annual audit and IRS Form 990.

Media Appearances

Within the past few months, CRC representatives have appeared on WGY in Troy (Albany) New York, and twice on Sonia Live (CNN). We have contributed to articles that appeared in the Houston Chronicle, the New York Daily News, and USA Today. CRC was mentioned in the Washington Post March 11 (page 3) on Kimberly Mays's decision in Florida to move back with her biological parents. Kimberly, 15, who was switched as a baby at birth, won the right to continue living with the parents who raised her, and to sever her relationship with her biological parents. The biological parents did not know of the switch until after the baby they raised had died at age 9. CRC was quoted as saying that Kimberly's move back with her biological parents whom she had denounced at the trial, shows that children do not need win-lose battles in court in which parental rights are severed unnecessarily. Kimberly worked out her own plan which was contrary to the court's decision.

Nationally syndicated columnist Suzanne Fields mentioned CRC in a column on March 3.

College Funds

Continued from page 11

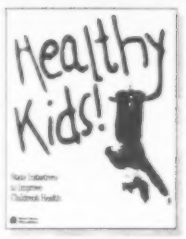
Ted Knight, an agent with the New York Life Insurance Company, who has worked with parents and grandparents to help secure the financial futures of their children and grandchildren, is offering this program to CRC supporters.

Mr. Knight may be reached at New York Life Insurance Company, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Suite 900, Falls Church, VA 22041 or by calling 703-532-2210.

Some CRC members have already taken out such whole life policies for their children.

Both the health insurance and whole life opportunities are being developed as benefits to membership in CRC. Both insurance offerings have been endorsed by the CRC Steering Committee (state coordinators of CRC).

To Be a Healthy Kid!



Focuses on state initiatives that improve children's health

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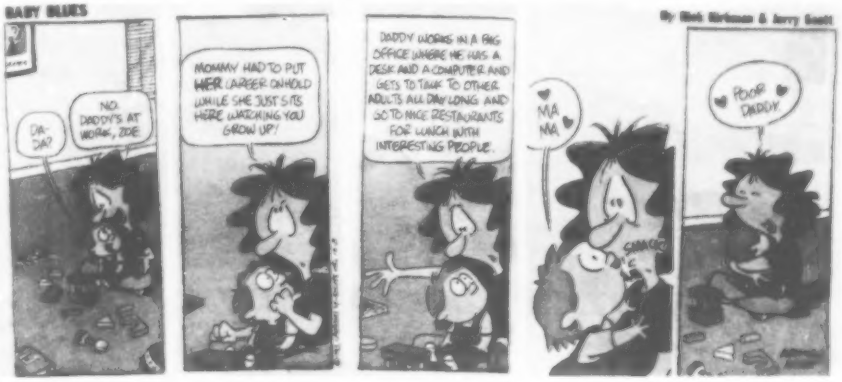
Order Item #6634 for $19 (including shipping and handling). Call (303) 830-2054. FAX (303) 863-8003, or send your check or money order to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 1560 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, Colorado 80202


BABY BLUES
DA-DAD
NO, DADDY'S AT WORK, ZOE
MOMMY HAD TO PUT HER CAREER ON HOLD WHILE SHE JUST SITS HERE WATCHING YOU GROW UP!
DADDY WORKS IN A BIG OFFICE WHERE HE HAS A DESK AND A COMPUTER AND GETS TO TALK TO OTHER ADULTS ALL DAY LONG AND GO TO NICE RESTAURANTS FOR LUNCH WITH INTERESTING PEOPLE.
MA MA
POOR DADDY

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96

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Court Cases

Relocation Barred in Joint Custody

A trial court properly applied the "best interests of the child" standard in refusing to grant a divorced mother's permission to relocate her two children to another state and transferring the children's "primary residence" to the father's home. The mother appealed and won in the intermediate court, but the Supreme Court said that although Minnesota state case law favors granting a custodial parent's request to relocate with his or her children, that case law was inappropriate here, where the father and mother labeled their agreement as one of joint legal and physical custody. Primary physical care with one parent is not inconsistent with joint custody, the court held.

Ayers v. Ayers (Katz); Minn. SupCt, No. C1-92-997, 11/19/93).

Relocation Would Make Weekly Visitation Difficult

The best interest of the child standard alone is inadequate to resolve a dispute where a custodial parent seeks to relocate with his or her child over the objections of the other parent, the Arkansas Court of Appeals has decided. For these disputes, the court decided to follow the procedure set by the New Jersey Superior Court in D'Onofrio v. D'Onofrio, 365 A.2d 27, 3 FLR 2004 (1976), which several other states have adopted. The court explained that pursuant to D'Onofrio, where the custodial parent seeks to relocate with the child to a place so distant as to make weekly visitation with the other parent impossible or impractical and the other parent objects to the move, the custodial parent must show that some real advantage will result to the new family unit from the move. The trial court, it continued, should then consider such factors as: the likelihood that the custodial parent will comply with future visitation orders; and whether revised visitation will adequately preserve the non-custodial parent's relationship with the child.

Staab v. Hurst, Ark CtApp (en banc). No. CA 93-442 (2/29/94).

Education and Joint Custody

A trial court "clearly erred" in holding that when divorced parents with joint custody cannot agree on their child's education, the decision is up to the parent with primary physical custody, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled. If the parents cannot agree (in this case, whether the child should enroll in the school's talented and gifted program), the court has a "duty" to determine the issue in the child's best interest, the appeals court ruled.

Lombardo v. Lombardo, Mich Ct.App, No. 145361 (10/18/93, released 12/2/93).

Attempted Murder Means No Alimony

A woman's attempt to have her ex-husband murdered (he was also the father of their child) is a relevant factor in denying her alimony, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals has held. The trial court properly denied a divorced woman's request for maintenance from her ex-husband based on the fact that she had pleaded guilty to soliciting a third party to kill him after their divorce was granted, the appeals court ruled.

Brabec v. Brabec, Wis CtApp 3dDist. No. 93-0588 (12/21/93).

Religious Issues

A divorce court erred in accepting a rabbinical court's decision as the basis for its award of custody of an Orthodox Jewish couple's children without first exercising its independent judgment as to whether the children's best interests were met by the ruling, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals held.

Kovacs v. Kovacs, MD CtSpecApp. No. 60/SeptTerm 1993 (12/1/93).

But in New York, a provision of a temporary order requiring a divorcing father to take his two children to a Catholic mass on those alternating weekends when he has visitation with them is not improper, a New York appeals court has ruled. The court reasoned that the order did not impermissibly interfere with the father's own religious practices, and found no indication that the provision is contrary to the children's best interests.

Colley v. Colley, NY AppDiv 3d Dept. No. 67663 (1/13/94).

Directory of Organizations Available

Copies of CRC's "Parenting International Directory," the fifth edition of its directory, is available in hard copy (updated annually) and on IBM 5 1/4" and 3 1/2" disks (updated semi-annually). The cost is $12.00 for either format for CRC members, and $15.00 for non-members.

The directory features:

- a state by state listing, in zip code order, of parenting groups within a state;
- a special section that lists national organizations involved in parenting issues;
- a list of abbreviations of terms used in the directory.

Because CRC does a great deal of networking, and constantly updates its data base, the directory can be relied on for accuracy.

The directory can be a valuable resource in making referrals around the country to and from your organization.

Order your copy of the Fifth Edition now from CRC.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new address to CRC, 220 "I" Street N.E., #230 Washington, D.C. 20002.

Better Child Support Data Sought

John Siegmund

In order to obtain better data on child support, CRC has recommended that the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) obtain better data. Right now, the U.S. Census Bureau (which is funded by HHS) only asks custodial mothers what they receive in child support. It does not ask custodial fathers what they receive, nor does it ask non-custodial parents (mothers and fathers) what they pay.

CRC's recommendations were prepared in response to a comment in the Federal Register, Vol. 59, No. 1, January 2, 1994 (OM No.: 0992-0272), in which the government asked for comments on data collection for child support.

The CRC response, prepared by CRC Senior Policy Analyst John Siegmund, Esquire, noted that the Survey of Absent Parents (1988) by Freya L. Sonenstein and Charles Calhoon of the Urban Institute, showed that fathers in Florida and Ohio were reporting paying up to 40% more in support than mothers reported receiving.

The Urban Institute had been authorized by HHS to study fathers' payment patterns in all 50 states, but after the pilot study was released, HHS cancelled the balance of the study for the 48 other states. A high official in HHS, protested the cancellation of the study in a memo to Wayne Stanton, who was then Secretary of the Office of Child Support Enforcement; but the balance of the study was cancelled nonetheless.

The CRC comment also quoted researchers Sanford L. Braver, Pamela J. Fitzpatrick and R. Curtis Bay in Family Relations, April 1991, as stating that "There is reason to suspect that (custodial parents) might well underreport child support received."

This observation is shared by other child support researchers across the country.

CRC's comment also said HHS should seek data on the relationship between regular visitation and support compliance. A Congressional mandate for this inquiry in the 1984 Child Support amendments (P.L. 98-378) stated:

"The Congress finds that....related domestic issues, such as visitation rights and child custody, are often inextricably intertwined with the child support problems and have received inadequate attention."

There is no word yet on whether HHS will change the methodology by which it obtains child support data, "but we hope for the best," said Siegmund.

Access and Custody Agreements Recommended

Laurie Casey

In response to a Congressional requirement in legislation passed last summer that hospitals must establish paternity of children whenever possible, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is preparing regulations for the states to carry out this federal requirement.

CRC proposed a 3-part form, by which hospitals would not only have parents acknowledge their parentage, but the parents would also have an opportunity to enter into custody and access (visitation) agreements with each other.

The term parentage rather than paternity was recommended by CRC because it is gender-neutral, and would emphasize that both mothers and fathers have equal responsibility for the child.

The custody section of the proposed form would allow parents to check off what type of custody arrangement they would like, e.g. sole legal custody, joint legal custody or joint physical custody.

The access/visitation form would allow the parents to agree on an access/visitation schedule for the child.

"When you acknowledge parentage, it should be more than financial support," said Laurie Casey, CRC Senior Policy Analyst, Moriah Center, New York, who conceived of and drew up the three-part form. "By allowing parents of new-born children at hospitals to consider the three-part form, we would be acknowledging that parentage is both emotional and financial."

Right now, hospitals generally only ask for an acknowledgment of paternity—which many fathers interpret as solely money-oriented.

"Poor people aren't stupid, they're just poor. They will quickly catch on that the only reason the government wants them to acknowledgement paternity is for collection of child support. A much more successful approach would be to link rights with responsibilities. Rights include being a parent to your child," said Ron Henry, Esquire, a member of the American Law Institute's Committee on Child Support.

HHS officials expect that some type of acknowledgement of custody and access rights will be included in the federal regulations, although they are not certain of the exact wording.

"If the federal regulations recommend such a three-part form—even if it doesn't require hospitals to adopt it, that will give child advocates in the states something to shoot for," said Casey.

Chapter News

Virginia
Visitation Bill Passes

Interference with visitation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine under a new law passed by the Virginia legislature and signed by Governor George Allen in 1994.

The bill, which becomes part of Virginia code 18.2-49.1B when it takes effect July 1, 1994, says that "Any person who knowingly, wrongfully, and intentionally engages in conduct which violates in a clear and significant manner an order regarding the custody or visitation of a minor child" shall be guilty of a class 4 misdemeanor ($250 fine). The second offense within 12 months of the first offense would be a Class 3 misdemeanor ($500) fine. A third violation within 24 months of the first violation would be a Class 2 misdemeanor ($1,000 fine, and the possibility of a jail sentence).

Three other bills became law in Virginia last year. They state that:

- intentional interference with visitation is grounds for a change in custody (Sec. 20-108 of the Code);
- in awarding sole custody, a judge shall consider the propensity of the parent to encourage an ongoing and continuous relationship between the child and the other parent (known as a "friendly parent" provision);
- every court order on visitation shall require that notification of relocation of the child's residence must be given to the court and to the other parent 30 days prior to the move.

The Children's Rights Coalition of Virginia played a major role in advocacy for most of the above legislation. The Children's Rights Council of Virginia, a major player in the Coalition, is headed by Cindy Lewis Ewing, CRC's Virginia coordinator, who was assisted by Stuart Miller, assistant state coordinator. Many members of CRC of Virginia and the Coalition deserve credit for their efforts.

New Jersey
TV Show Protest

After a TV program on NBC news that depicted a father as a financial child support deadbeat, the father and his company's accountant showed up at a meeting of the New Jersey Council for Children's Rights (NJCCR) to state that the father had fully paid his child support. The father is Steve Cacchiola, and the NBC program aired in the tri-state area (New Jersey, New York and Connecticut) twice in early February, according to Richard Martin, president of the NJCCR.

The NJCCR then protested to NBC News, and in response, received a phone call from Diane Durney at NBC News, saying NBC had received 50 angry phone calls regarding the program. Ms. Durney indicated she would feature a piece on the other side of the story, said Martin, but Ms. Durney has not yet followed-through with such a story.

The other side would presumably allow air time for non-payors, as well as critics of the current system, who contend that the child support system as it currently operates doesn't produce absent non-custodial parents so much as it produces forced-away non-custodial parents.

NJCCR is asking people to boycott five advertisers that regularly appear on the Ralph Penza show, where the segment on the deadbeat father appeared.

The advertisers are MCI, Alamo Car Rentals, Honda Acura, Cadillac, and Visa Gold. For more information, contact Richard Martin, at NJCCR, 908-781-6333 (eves) or 908-957-2158 (days).

CRC New Catalog of Resources, listing 175 books, reports, audio & video cassettes plus gifts for children is now available. A FREE copy is being mailed to all CRC members. Additional copies are $1 for members and $2 for non-members.

New Chapter Forms in North Carolina

Lapish

CRC has branched out into another state—North Carolina. Our new state coordinator there is Angie Lapish, a mother of two boys, Brandon, 7, and Travis, 5. Lapish is supposed to have 50/50 physical joint custody, but is suffering access interference from the father. Angie lives in Statesville, about 45 minutes north of Charlotte, where her CRC efforts have been mentioned on two local radio stations and two area newspapers. Her husband Dana is helping to organize the group.

CRC chapters have also been formed in New York City and Roanoke, Virginia. The head of the new CRC of Roanoke Valley, Virginia is Barry Young, a non-custodial parent of 6-year-old Megan. His CRC efforts are assisted by his new wife Lynn, who has a 4-year -old son, Nick, from a previous marriage. Lynn and her former spouse have shared physical custody of Nick, which came about as the result of a suggestion from Barry Young.

CRC thanks Cindy Lewis Ewing and Michael Ewing of CRC of Tidewater, VA chapter for helping to get both the North Carolina and Roanoke chapters started.

CRC has new state coordinators in California and Colorado. The new CRC coordinator in Colorado is Laurie Entrekin, a critical-care nurse in Presbyterian Health One Hospital in Denver. Laurie's husband Mark Entrekin, who attended CRC's 1993 conference, is assisting.

The New York City chapter is headed by Serge Prengel, who was born in Casablanca, Morocco, and who has lived in the U.S. for 20 years. New York state coordinator Kim Boedecker-Frey is helping to get the New York City chapter started.

Chapters exist in 26 states

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community, write to Eric Anderson, address below, and enclose $10.00 for photocopying and postage.

This 37-page booklet explains everything you want to know about affiliation.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
P.O. Box 27418
Houston, TX 77227-7418
phone (713) 840-1626
Jennifer Isham, president
Joint membership in MWOC and CRC: $35.00 a year

Grandparents United for Children's Rights (GUCR)
137 Larkin Street
Madison, WI 53705
phone (608) 238-8751
Ethel Dunn, executive director
Joint membership in GUCR and CRC: $35.00 a year.

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 212
Lincoln, NE 68505
(402) 477-7837
1-800) 735-0329
Kevin Ricker, president
Joint membership in SAA annd CRC: $35.00 for the first year

Write to any of the above groups, say you would like an affiliate membership with CRC, and enclose a check.

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Linda Sartori, publisher
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CRC Chapters

Alabama
CRC of Alabama
P.O. Box 750
Montrose, AL 36559
E.D. Wilson, coordinator
(205) 928-0464

Alaska
Alaska Dads and Moms
2225 Arctic Boulevard, Ste 303
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 274-7358
Gary Maxwell, state coordinator

Alaska Family Support Group
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Anchorage, AK 99511-1691
(907) 344-7707
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(916) 635-2590
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James Morning, president

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Kris Kline, coordinator

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Ann Danner, coordinator

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(515) 277-8789
Dick Woods, coordinator

Professionals Serving
Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents
(515) 263-9511
Eric Borseth, J.D.

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Roger Doeren, coordinator

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Owensboro, KY 42301
(502) 684-6100
Tracy Cox, coordinator

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Harvey Walden, coordinator

Massachusetts
Sheila Sands, coordinator (413) 737-4900
Concerned Fathers of Massachusetts, Inc.
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(413) 736-7432
George Kelly, president

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Washington, D.C. 20002
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Rochester, MN 55901
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Bruce Kaskubar, coordinator

Missouri - See Kansas/Missouri

New Jersey
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Kim Boedecker-Frey, coordinator

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101

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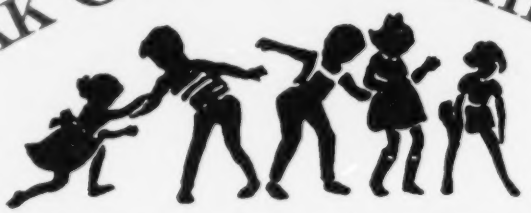

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Welfare Reform.....1
About CRC 2
Letters to the Editor ..4
Next CRC Conference.....4
Awards Time.....4
CRC Guidelines 4
1994 Conference Drew Wide Support 5
Awards Presented at Conference 5
Big Red Boat 6
Clinton Sends Message to Candlelight Vigil 7
Around the Country...8
Court Cases.....9
Bills & Resolutions...11
Inside CRC 14
Chapter News 15
Twilley New pokesperson 15
Grandparents Group, Other Groups 16
Survey on Infants.....16
Chapters Exist in 29 States 17
Nat'l Organizations and Chapters.....17

Welfare Reform, Support and Visitation Grants Proposed

Welfare reform and financial child support legislation are high on the agenda in Washington, as Congress considers proposals to limit welfare and provide new support enforcement mechanisms.

There is bipartisan support on Capitol Hill to provide time limits (generally two years) on how long recipients can receive welfare, and to provide additional financial child support enforcement mechanisms.

One of the most comprehensive bills, prepared by the Clinton Administration following hearings on welfare reform and child support around the country, was introduced by leading Democrats in the House and Senate on June 21, 1994.

The 464-page bill (H.R. 4605 in the House and S. 2224 in the Senate) contains a small provision for access (visitation) grants (see below), but its main focus is on welfare reform and child support. The bill would

for welfare

* impose a two-year lifetime limit on benefits to recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) for most able-bodied adult recipients born after 1971;

* impose work/study/training requirements, in the program of Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS), on mothers with no child below age 1 (lowering the age threshold 2 years);

* increase federal funding for the JOBS program;

* require states, with federal matching funds, to create a program of subsidized jobs called WORK for those without private jobs at the end of their two-year limit;

* require unwed minor mothers to live at home in order to receive AFDC;

* permit states to deny benefits for a new baby born to an AFDC mother.

for financial child support

* require states to establish paternity for all non-married parents in hospital or as soon thereafter as possible;

* require mothers applying for AFDC to provide verifiable information about the father except for "good cause" exceptions;

* provide outreach and public education programs on voluntary paternity establishment;

* require universal automatic, periodic administrative updating of all support awards;

* establish a National Commission on Child Support Guidelines to study the desirability of a uniform national child support guideline;

* establish automation and mass case processing, relying on one centralized automated system in each state for the collection and distribution of payments;

* establish a federal National Clearinghouse, composed of an expanded Federal Parent Locator Service, a National Child Support Registry and a National Directory of New Hires, to enforce interstate location and enforcement;

* mandatory restrictions in states on professional, occupational and drivers licenses for delinquent support payors;

* attachment of public and private retirement funds;

* child support assurance demonstration projects.

Continued on page 3

CRC'S NINTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 1995 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BETHESDA, MARYLAND (the same conference site as in 1993 and 1994). PLEASE ATTEND.

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy.

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CRC is a member (Number 1513) of

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for fair financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 28 states and three national affiliate organizations: G.R.I.N.S. (Grandparent Rights in New Strength); Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA). Kids Express, a monthly newsletter for and about children, is also affiliated with CRC.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street N.E., Suite 230, Washington, D.C. 20002, or phone (202) 547-6227. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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Welfare Reform

Continued from page 1

In describing the new bill, Mary Jo Bane, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) said "Welfare reform must give people back the dignity and control that comes from work and independence. Our new vision is aimed at helping people regain the means of supporting themselves...and their families."

Republicans in Congress have said that the Clinton bill does not go far enough to truly reform welfare, but there is bipartisan support for the child support proposals.

Visitation Grants

The Clinton bill authorizes, in Section 691, access/visitation programs of $5 million each for the years 1996 and 1997, and $10 million for each succeeding year. The money would enable states to help "absent" parents obtain access/visitation to their children through "mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pick-up) and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements."

The Clinton Administration had originally considered requesting $135 million for this program, but reduced it to the above figures.

The bill also provides that failure to pay support is not a defense to denial of visitation, and denial of visitation is not a defense to not paying support.

Order copies of the bills from the local office of your House member or Senator.

CRC's View

CRC and various other groups have weighed in with a solution that echoes many of the welfare proposals recommended by the Clinton Administration, but which would go even further towards welfare reform.

The "Children's Welfare Act of 1994" proposed by these groups notes that:

* Welfare programs, originally intended to provide temporary economic sustenance to individuals while they seek to enter the workforce, have fallen short of this goal; this leaves them and their dependent children in poverty;

* The failure to escape poverty persists through generations, as children of welfare families go onto welfare rolls as adults, resulting in needless waste of human potential as well as economic and other costs to society;

* Current welfare provisions lack measures that would assist in the elimination of intergenerational welfare dependence, and encourage such dependency by ignoring the availability of non-welfare alternatives for dependent children.

The proposed act says "It is therefore in the public interest to amend the welfare laws to eliminate the encouragement of intergenerational welfare dependency and to promote the placement of children in non-welfare environments more conducive to an economically and socially productive adulthood."

The bill would require individuals seeking welfare involving dependent children under age 18 to certify that there are no relatives of the children who are willing to provide for the child's needs.

The administrator of this "kinship care" proposal would have to certify, after undertaking diligent efforts, that there are no relatives of the child who are fit and willing to provide for the needs of the child (or assume custody) without resort to welfare dependency.

The act provides that "An applicant's preference for welfare payments rather than family assistance shall not be a basis for granting welfare eligibility unless the administrator (or agency or other appropriate official) has certified, after making diligent investigation, that family assistance will be detrimental to the safety of the child."

Copies of the 10 page analysis of the welfare situation, including the one page "Children's Welfare Act of 1994", which has been distributed to all members of Congress by CRC, are available free to CRC members and $3 to non-members, provided you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Heavily Weighted

CRC supports the welfare provisions, and the access/visitation provisions, but finds that the legislation as a whole is still heavily weighted in favor of support enforcement mechanisms, without balancing provisions that would encourage payment, and that would encourage involvement by both parents in children's lives.

CRC President David L. Levy testified before a House committee in June that current policies are worsening the problem for children.

CRC's position is based partly on the following:

* "From a federal budget perspective, Child Support Enforcement is an expensive disappointment," states a report issued in June, 1992 by Republican House members E. Clay Shaw, Nancy L. Johnson and Fred Grandy.

* A report provided by the General Accounting Office at the request of Congresswomen Marge Roukema and Barbara Kennelly and Senator Bill Bradley, released January 9, 1992, stated that 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the fathers say it is because the fathers were unable to pay. This data is not reflected in the legislation.

Levy told the Committee that CRC is the most pro-child support organization in the country, because CRC favors programs that work.

CRC's view is that access to one's children is child support enforcement, because Census Bureau data shows that access increases support compliance. Similarly, mediation is child support enforcement, and downward modification of child support orders is child support enforcement (because it allows a parent who has lost a job to pay something, albeit less than before, rather than go to jail because of inability to pay what the court "imputes" his income to be, and, in jail, pays nothing).

CRC also views parenting education as child support enforcement, access/visitation counselling as child support enforcement, and parentage establishment (see above) as child support enforcement.

Continued on page 16

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

While standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for the Candlelight Vigil at CRC's Conference, very suddenly it dawned on me that two of my grandchildren were being recognized. It has been more than four years since they have been denied access to their father; and more than two years since they have been denied access to me (their grandmother) and other members of our family. Thank you, CRC, for the annual Candlelight Vigil on behalf of the 6,600,000 children being denied access to their non-custodial parents by the custodial parents.

Betty Duffey
Niles, IL

Note: Ms. Duffey's case is described in detail in "Issues in Child Abuse Accusations," Vol. 5, No. 2, Spring, 1993, published by The Institute for Psychological Therapies, Northfield, MN).

Next CRC Conference March 29-April 2, 1995

CRC's Ninth National Conference will take place March 29 through April 2, 1995 at the Holiday Inn, Bethesda, Maryland, the same site as the 1993 and 1994 conferences.

The theme of the conference is "Children First." This is the phrase that appears on a sign over the office of David Gray Ross, the director of the Office of Child Support Enforcement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Roger Doeren, CRC coordinator in Kansas/Missouri, was credited by Ross, at a meeting of the Kansas/Missouri Child Support Enforcement Association in June, 1994, as the first person to give him a "Children First" lapel pin. This gave Ross the idea of putting the "Children First" sign over his door. Doeren obtained the pins from Mark Riley of the Child Welfare League of America (the pins are also available from the CRC catalogue for $5.00 each).

The 1995 conference will include a Capitol Hill Symposium, candlelight vigil at the Lincoln Memorial, and Book and Author Luncheon. Representatives Harold Ford (D-TN) and Matthew Martinez (D-CA), two House subcommittee chairmen who are working on welfare reform and financial child support issues, and Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD), a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, have been invited to speak to the Capitol Hill Symposium.

Attorney General Janet Reno and other members of the Clinton Administration have also been invited to speak. Other speakers expected at the conference are:

Clawar and Rivlin

* Stanley S. Clawar and Brynne Rivlin, authors of "Children Held Hostage: Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children," who been asked to present points from their book that they did not have time to do at the 1994 conference;

* Sanford Braver, Ph.D., federally funded researcher, who has written on the intimate connection between financial child support and the control a parent has over a child's upbringing, who is expected to have results of new research available for presentation at the conference.

* Warren Farrell, author and lecturer, who expects to publish a new book on custody in 1995.

Awards Time Again

At its 1995 conference, CRC will present the annual Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "Healers" among lawyers, judges and others, and its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques. Nominations should be received by February 1, 1995.

A "Healer" might be:

* a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);

* an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

For Media Awards, possible contenders are:

* best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);

* best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents;

* best TV series on abuse and false abuse charges.

For Active Parenting, possible contenders are:

* programs that help with family formation and family preservation;

* programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Send "Healer" award nominations to:
Carla A. Goodwin, M.Ed
Certified Educational Psychologist
920 Washington Street
South Easton, MA 02375
(508) 238-3722

Send "Best in Media" award nominations to:
James Morning, coordinator;
CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 629-3810

Send "Active Parenting" nominations to
Eric Anderson
12103 Scribe Drive
Austin, TX 78759

CRC Guideline Available

The child support guideline prepared by CRC that is based on a child having two parents was released by the federal government in August, 1994.

This marks the first time that the federal government has ever distributed a guideline that takes into account the direct expenditures on a child by the non-custodial parent.

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, which

Continued on page 13

1994 Conference Drew Wide Support

About 300 people attended CRC's Ninth National Conference April 13-17, 1994. Speakers included:

Galston

* William A. Galston, assistant White House Domestic Policy Advisor. Galston, who has met with representatives of CRC, advocates for academics, fathers, and other individuals and organizations several times in the White House in the past year, spoke of the need to include non-custodial parent representatives in family policy deliberations on the federal level. He said that marriage must be the policy goal in the United States, but that if parents are not married, both fathers and mothers should be encouraged to be part of their children's lives.

Ross

* David Gray Ross, the new head of the Office of Child Support Enforcement in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ross said failure to pay child support is a crime, but stressed "it is equally serious not to involve both parents in children's lives. A father is much more than a sperm donor and a pocketbook. Fathers and grandparents' participation is crucial for making children's lives better." Figures also show that involved fathers are better support payers, he noted.

He said efforts are underway to "demilitarize" and render gender neutral the office's published materials, and to stress that mothers as well as fathers have a duty to support. Restating his longtime strong support for joint custody and mediation as a former judge in Maryland for more than 20 years, he said "we don't need so many lawyers driving the system" In visitation and custody proceedings. "They can make things murky, and are not needed."

* Sanford Braver, Ph.D., a federally funded researcher and psychology professor at Arizona State University, said his research shows that the major cause of fathers' loss of interest and failure to pay child support stems from their sense of a lack of control and from being excluded from sharing with mothers in the child-rearing process.

"Fathers feel a sense of disenfranchisement, disempowerment, and the threat that they have no input into how their children are raised. They feel, in effect, as parents without children. When this happens, a withdrawal from the obligations of parenthood, financial support, and emotional relationship tends to follow. The issue is not that such fathers are irresponsible, but that they are thwarted in exercising responsibility."

The implications of the findings, he said, are that joint legal custody and non-adversarial techniques such as mediation encourage payment of support.

"Rather than an adversarial process, we need a much more human-centered approach which will improve contact of fathers and children, mutually benefitting both," he said.

Other Speakers Included

* Melinda Blau, author of the new 1994 book entitled "Families Apart: 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting," who spoke of the need to improve shared parenting in America;

* Stanley E. Clawar and Brynne V. Rivlin, authors of "Children Held Hostage: Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children," a book published by the American Bar Association's Section on Family Law;

* Michael Lamb, Ph.D., National Institutes of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, who spoke on child sexual abuse;

* Richard Gardner, M.D., who spoke on "Proposed Amendments in the 1974 Child Abuse Reporting Law" and "Follow-up studies of non-abused children who were programmed to believe that they were sexually abused: the creation of new categories of psychiatric disturbance";

* Dick Woods, administrator of the $300,000 Iowa Access Grant, who gave a pre-conference training session for persons who wish to become access (visitation) counsellors in their states.

Constance Ahrons, who had been scheduled to speak, was unable to do so because of illness.

Awards Presented at Conference

At the conference, CRC presented Chief Justice Warren E. Burger "Healer" awards, "Best in Media" awards, "Parenting" awards, and other citations.

Winners of "Healer" Awards

* David Arnaudo, of the Office of Child Support Enforcement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. "for his commitment to developing new procedures to broaden participation in the federal child support system." Arnaudo is a career civil servant who administers the access/visitation grants to the states.

* William A. Galston, assistant domestic policy advisor, The White House, "for leadership in renewing the recognition of the needs of children for two parents." Galston has been the leading Clinton Administration official to include non-custodial parents and academics who favor a child's right to two parents in the formulation of family policies;

* Suzy Yehl Marta, founder of Rainbows (formerly known as Rainbows for All God's Children), Schaumberg, Illinois, "for providing peer-support for thousands of children of divorce" in Rainbows programs around the country;

* Elizabeth McGonagle, founder of the Banana Splits Program, Ballston Spa, New York, "for providing peer-support for thousands of children of divorce" in school districts around the country;

* Richard Curtis, Los Angeles Superior Court, "for strong efforts in educating parents of the needs of children during divorce";

* Judge Woodrow Lewis, Jr., Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Court, "for the extraordinary time and effort shown to litigants in dealing with the issues affecting families";

Continued on page 6

1994 Conference

Continued from page 5

* Cornelius Hogan, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, Vermont, "for his innovative and continued efforts on behalf of a child's right to two parents";

* Mickey James, Wyandotte County District Court, Kansas, "for development of programs to assist families in the process of divorce," particularly the 2-hour parenting class that judges require all separating parents in Wyandotte County to attend.

Arnaudo, Galston, Curtis, Lewis, Hogan and James received their awards (engraved plaques) in person.

Winners of "Best in Media" · Awards

* Ellen McVay, of WTVT Channel 13 Tampa, Florida, for her two-part program "Children of Divorce" aired in November, 1993, that showed how parents can cooperate more for the sake of their children;

* Rebecca Chase ABC-TV, for the segment on Access/Visitation, aired August 18, 1993, as part of ABC World News, the American Agenda. The program focused on access/visitation in Iowa, and the members of Dick Woods's custody reform organization;

* Andrea Neal of the Indianapolis Star, for her many columns and stories that reflect on a need of children for two parents;

* Robin Williams and Marsha Williams, Los Angeles, California, for the film, "Mrs. Doubtfire" which demonstrated the longing children have for their fathers as well as their mothers

* Doug Supernaw, dad and country music star, for his efforts on behalf of children and the Children's Rights Council;

* Dwight Twilley, dad and pop music singer, for his efforts on behalf of children and the Children's Rights Council

Neal, Supernaw and Twilley received their awards in person.

Winners of "Parenting" Awards

* Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., Director, Mediation and Divorce Center in Salt Lake City, for her outstanding work developing and managing Utah's Mandatory Divorce Education Program;

* Phoebe Snover Prosky, Director, Center for Awareness of Pattern, Freeport, Maine, for the program, "The Family After Divorce: Restoring the Family Fabric " that helps children and families of divorce

Hickey and Prosky received their awards in person.

Winner of The Cici Simon Memorial award

(given to an individual or organization that works to improve the quality of mental health testimony in child custody cases)

* Richard A. Gardner, M.D., Cresskill, New Jersey, clinical professor of child psychiatry, Columbia University, for focusing national attention on the subjectivity of mental health testimony in child custody cases.

Thank You!

CRC thanks those who made the conference a success. They include Heather Campbell, conference coordinator; Barbara Alexander, Louis Anderson, Reba Barnes, Howard "Doc" Bladen of Bladen Lithographics, Linda Clarke, Gary Cowardin, Charles Davis, Cindy and Michael Ewing, Ron Henry, Ellen and Diana Levy, Deanne Mechling, Stuart Miller, Ed Mudrak, Lynn Nesbitt, Roy Nolan, Do Ngoyun, Michael L. Oddenino, John Park, Paul Robinson, Brent Sandbak, Chuck and Donna Stewart (who come from Colorado each year to run the bookfair), LaJuan Sykes, Bob Vinik.

More Conference news will appear in the next issue.

Commission Awaits Appointees

Twelve of the 15 positions on the Commission on Child Welfare have been filled, but because President Clinton has not named his three appointees, the Commission cannot start its work. The national commission will study access/visitation problems and other child-related issues. Two of the Commissioners named by House Speaker Foley are John Guidubaldi, Ph.D., a nationally known researcher on children of divorce from Kent State, Ohio, and Bill Harrington, president of the American Fathers Coalition (AFC). CRC asks you to write to the President, urging the appointment of James A. Cook, president of the Joint Custody Association; Dick Woods, administrator of the $300,000 Iowa access grant; Karen DeCrow, former national president of N.O.W., or Ron Henry, Washington, D.C. attorney.

Big Red Boat Goes to Bahamas

Come join the Children's Right's Council's first "family cruise," a 4-night Bahamas cruise on "The Big Red Boat," the ship "Oceanic", Monday to Friday. August 7-11, 1995. The ship will leave Port Canaveral in Florida, and visit Nassau (the Bahamas) on Wednesday, August 9. A special low price has been arranged for CRC of $489 to $599 per passenger, depending on whether the cabin is inside or outside. The third and fourth passengers sharing in the same cabin pay only $265.00 regardless of age. Rates include meals, entertainment and activities. For additional information or reservations, phone Adventures At Sea Travel, 1-800-852-2009, and ask about the Children's Rights Council trip. CRC receives a portion of each reservation.

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President Clinton Sends Message to Candlelight Vigil

President Clinton

"I am proud to stand with you all of you in your compassionate efforts to advance the needs of America's youth," President Clinton said in a message to CRC's Candlelight Vigil at the Lincoln Memorial, as part of CRC's Ninth National Conference.

More than 300 people heard the President's message as it was read below the statue of Lincoln by Travis Ballard. The President's message is reproduced at the right.

The vigil served to acknowledge the 6,600,000 children estimated to have difficulty in obtaining access to their non-custodial parents. Legislatures and the courts provide few incentives to encourage this access/visitation/ parenting time, in CRC's view.

The main speaker at the Vigil was Sonny Burmeister, CRC coordinator in Georgia, who said that over the last 30 years, researchers have learned that a child's healthy sociological and psychological adjustment to the divorce or separation of his or her parents is predicated on two factors: insuring that the child will not lose either parent as a result of the divorce or separation, and minimizing the conflict between the parents during and after the separation or divorce.

"Yet what our society does is just the opposite. Our legal and judicial system 'shorts' one parent, declaring a winner and a loser, and instead of minimizing conflict, we pour gasoline on those parents' hot coals of strife, throwing them into the meanest, cruelest, most destructive adversarial process which we as a society have labelled as 'justice.' It is time for us to call it for what it is—a child suffering industry which promotes destruction and the waste of emotional, spiritual, financial and physical resources of that family in crisis.

"While some children of single parents will adjust and succeed, the simple reality is that a child growing up in a single parent household is 500% more likely to be "at risk" than a child from a two-parent intact family. The statistics are abundantly clear—90% of homeless and runaway children, 85% of youths incarcerated in juvenile jails, 75% of adolescent parents at chemical abuse centers, 71% of all high school dropouts, 70% of teenage pregnancies, 63% of youth suicides, and 48% of child abuse, occurs in sole custody or single parent households.

"Our social policy for too long has been to remove healthy, loving, nurturing adults from our children's supporting network of adults....promote the destruction of families, prevent or discourage the formation of families, and foster the severing of parent/child relationships. America today, in our children and our society itself, is paying the price for this insanity."

Dwight Twilley, author of "Questions from Dad" said that the major problems of the world are not going to be solved until people realize that children are our greatest asset.

Cindy Ewing, CRC coordinator in Virginia, chaired the Vigil.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1994

Warm greetings to everyone gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for this year's Candlelight Vigil, hosted by the Children's Rights Council. I am proud to stand with all of you in your compassionate efforts to advance the needs of America's youth.

Our children are our nation's most precious resource and our most profound responsibility. Only when our young people are provided with the best care possible can we truly say that we are prepared for the challenges of the twenty-first century. Unfortunately, too many of our children suffer the horrors of abuse or neglect, and their chances to lead full and happy lives are compromised.

I am pleased that the members of the Children's Rights Council remain committed to providing hope and encouragement for young people. Though we have made great strides in the last year, increasing America's investments in programs that serve children and families, we have much yet to accomplish. We must continue our work to reform our education and health care systems, to end neighborhood and domestic violence, and to strengthen America's families so that all children receive the love and support they deserve. Each of you plays a vital role in this important goal, and I commend you for helping to ensure a safe, healthy environment for America's youth. Your involvement is a shining example of leadership and compassion for all those whose lives you've touched.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for a memorable ceremony.

Bill Clinton

The estimated number of children whose access (visitation) to a non-custodial parent is interfered with by a custodial parent are listed below. Conference attendees read the numbers below, out loud, during the ceremony.

State. . .	Number of Children
Alabama	115,000
Alaska	10,000
Arizona	69,000
California	700,000
Colorado	85,000
Connecticut	90,000
Delaware	16,500
Dist. of Columbia	18,000
Florida	298,000
Georgia	161,000
Hawaii	28,000
Idaho	27,000
Illinois	336,000
Indiana	162,000
Iowa	85,000
Kansas	68,000
Kentucky	100,500
Louisiana	123,000
Maine	33,000
Maryland	123.000
Massachusetts	185,000
Michigan	270,000
Minnesota	119,000
Mississippi	74,000
Missouri	114,000
Montana	22,500
Nebraska	46,000
Nevada	22,000
New Hampshire	27,000
New Jersey	216,000
New Mexico	39,000
New York	518,000
North Carolina	172,000
North Dakota	18,000
Ohio	216,000
Oklahoma	89,000
Oregon	83,000
Pennsylvania	349,000
Rhode Island	27,000
South Carolina	99,000
South Dakota.	19,000
Tennessee	135,000
Texas	419,000
Utah	45,000
Vermont	15,000
Virginia	157,000
Washington	122,000
West Virginia	56,500
Wisconsin	135,000
Wyoming	13,500

Around the Country

Ross Urges Focus on Carrots, Not Just Sticks

It is very destructive to call non-custodial parents deadbeats, David Ross said in a series of talks and meetings he held with child support staff and judges across the country in May and June.

Ross, appointed by President Clinton as the nation's top child support boss in February, 1994, held the meetings to get acquainted with some of the 43,000 people employed by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), which is a part of HHS (the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

Ross said at the various meetings, attended by judges as well as child support staff, that America needs to be enforcing emotional/time sharing support as well as financial support.

When we are enforcing only financial support, we use the stick—but when we enforce access, we are focusing on the carrot, the incentives, said Ross.

He pointed out Census Bureau statistics that reveal that when parents have shared parental responsibility, they pay 90% of support, when parents have visitation (access), they pay 79% of support, and when parents have neither shared parenting nor visitation, only 44.5% of support is paid. Child support enforcement agencies should scale down their enforcement side, said Ross, and build up their incentive side.

(above obtained from attendees at the meetings).

A Hiccup in a Hurricane

Nationally syndicated columnist Don Feder in a column of November 17, 1993 says the crime bill in Congress will have "the impact of a 'hiccup in a hurricane,' because it, like other crime legislation over the years, fails to address the real reason for the "crime contagion"–fatherless families.

"Nothing succeeds like failure," wrote Feder, who is distributed by Creators Syndicate. "There are four times as many inmates today as 20 years ago. During the same period, law enforcement expenditures increased sevenfold. Over 90 percent of the guns used by criminals are obtained illegally, and thus beyond the purview of waiting periods, license laws and the like.

"Public anxiety about crime isn't paranoia. The FBI estimates that 83% of Americans will be victims at some point in their lives. From 1976 to 1993, more of our citizens were murdered in their native land than died in Europe and in the Pacific during World War II.

"But solutions, from both sides of the spectrum, ignore an essential reality. At the heart of the crime problem lies a family crises. According to a study published in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, the best indicator of violent crime in a community isn't race or income or employment but the proportion of fatherless families.

"Today, 15 million children are growing up in households without fathers—collectively, they constitute fissionable material. The inner cities are already well past critical mass, with illegitimacy approaching 80 percent in some areas.

"The Family Research Council presents an impressive array of data on the connection between fatherless families and crime. Studies of violent rapists (60% from single-parent households), adolescent murderers (72% with divorced or never-married mothers) and juveniles in long-term correctional facilities (70% did not live with their fathers while growing up.)

"It's not just a black problem—not any more. Among whites, the illegitimacy rate is 22%."

(CRC notes that Feder asks fathers to be there for their families, which is good, but he fails to note the many pushed away and thrownaway fathers, or to note the growing number of motherless households—that is, the 2 million homes in which there is sole father custody. There are also millions of homes which have a deficit in connections to grandparents and other members of the extended family).

False Charges of Abuse

Claims of sexual abuse in child custody cases are false at least half the time, according to the experience of a majority of divorce lawyers who were polled on the subject.

In a Wall Street Journal article in May, 1993, fifty-nine matrimonial specialists participated in the survey conducted at the spring 1993 meeting of the American Bar Association's section on family law in San Diego.

Forty-three percent of those who had handled cases involving child sex-abuse allegations said such allegations were false "half the time." 25 percent said they were false "most of the time," and 32 percent said they were "not often" false. The charges almost always were made by the mother, the lawyers said.

Crime and Family Breakdown

George B. Witmer, a senior fellow at the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, found a strong correlation between the rise in out-of-wedlock births and crime in Indiana from 1980 to 1990 in his study of FBI uniform crime reports and state health and crime data.

A story in the Indianapolis Star, June 13, 1994 said

"Over the 30-year period, incidents of violent crime increased from 80 annually per 100,000 Hoosiers to 474 incidents annually per 100,000 in 1990. During that time, births to unwed mothers rose from 40 per 1,000 births to 240 per 1,000 births in 1990 in 1990, Witmer's research shows.

"Witmer said his study shows the rise in crime more closely tracks the rise in out of wedlock births and in Aid to Families with Dependent Children over 30 years than any other purported cause of crime, including poverty.

"But Kenneth J. Falk, attorney for the Legal Services Organization of Indiana, believes some of the research's premises are flawed.

"It is in many ways stereotyping a family to assume that because they are low-income or they are one-parent, that automatically leads to the breakdown of the family structure.

"There are many, many families with just one parent who receive welfare who are able to instill excellent values in their children," Falk contended.

"Witmer said he hoped his research, which was expected to be published in Indiana Policy Review in Summer, 1994, will spur the legislature and Gov. Evan Bayh, to take a more radical approach to reforming welfare."

(CRC Note: Nothing in what Mr. Falk says contradicts Mr. Witmer's research findings—that is, there are always exceptions to the rule).

Court Cases

Third Party Win on False Memory

Two therapists destroyed a father's life by implanting false memories of child abuse in his daughter's mind, a jury ruled May 13, 1994, in Napa, California. The jurors awarded the father, former winery executive Gary Ramona, $500,000 in damages. Ramona had sued the two therapists and a hospital, saying their work with his daughter Holly had destroyed his family and cost him his $400,000 a year job. He had sought $8 million in damages but said he was satisfied with the verdict.

It is the first known case in which a third party (that is, someone who is not a patient) has successfully sued a therapist for allegedly placing false memories of abuse in a person's mind. Jury foreman Thomas Dudum said the preponderance of the evidence in this civil action was Mr. Ramona had not abused his child many years earlier.

Support Affected by Direct Expenditures

Divorced parents who say they've been reduced to check writers may have more control of their money and their kids under a state appeals court decision handed down June 23, 1994.

In what is believed to be a landmark decision, a three-judge appeals court ruled that Princeton Township Administrator Jim Pascale can reduce his child support payments to his ex-wife to compensate for the money he spends when he's with his children.

Pascale argued in the case that his ex-wife controls the $1,200 in child support he pays each month even though their three children spend as much time with him as with her.

Pascale argued that when he feeds his 8 year old son and 10 year old twin girls dinner in his West Windsor townhouse, which he does three to four times a week, he's paying twice.

"This is the '90's," he said. "Fathers are more than banking institutions."

Pascale's child support reduction will be determined at a hearing to be held in Family Court.

The children's mother, however, has indicated she will appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court.

(Note: this decision is in accord with the reasoning in the CRC Child Support Guideline being distributed by the federal government. Research also shows higher and more timely payments in joint custody, as well as the availability of more resources for the child then in the typical single-parent situation).

The "Baby Richard" Adoption Case

After the Illinois Supreme Court ordered that an adopted child known in the press as "Baby Richard" be returned to his birthparents, the Illinois legislature passed a bill to provide expedited process for adoption. The legislature's aim was to prevent a recurrence of the "Baby Richard" case in which there had been a 3 1/2 year delay in legal proceedings.

The 3-1/2 year delay was the result of "a conspiracy undertaken to deny the natural father any knowledge of his son's existence," said Illinois Supreme Court Justice James D. Heiple, in the court's decision, ordering the child's return to the natural parents.

"The purpose of adoption is to provide a home for a child, not a child for a home," said Justice Heiple. Heiple accused the Illinois legislature, and Governor Jim Edgar, of a "crass political move" in passing the legislation, with the goal of changing the Supreme Court's decision.

"Both the governor and the members of the general assembly who supported this bill, might be well advised to return to the classroom and take up civics 101," said Judge Heiple.

According to news accounts, a social worker, the social worker's adoption attorney, and the prospective adoptive parents convinced the mother to give birth to the child at a secret location, and to tell the father that the child had died at birth. The father learned of the deception on the 57th day after the child was born, and immediately asserted his paternal rights. The father and mother later married, and both sought return of the child.

The case is now being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by the adoptive parents.

In re the petition of John Doe and Jane Doe husband and wife, to adopt Baby boy Janikova (John Doe et al appellees, Otakar Kirchner, appellant), Docket No. 76063/Agenda 19/March, 1994, Governor Edgar's request for a re-hearing denied July 7, 1994, as reported in the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times, July 8, 1994.

Parental Alienation

A mother's conduct in encouraging her daughter to avoid contact with her father justifies immediate termination of the father's child support obligation, the New York Family Court, Dutchess County, has decided. The court recognized that New York's Domestic Relations Law stipulates that one parent's interference with the other parent's visitation rights does not justify cancellation of child support arrears. However, the court said courts are not barred from suspending child support until the interference abates.

The court said that, since the divorce in 1986 (when the daughter was 6), the mother had "created an aura that over the years has made it difficult if not impossible for there to be a father-daughter relationship established." The father told the court that he had not seen his daughter since 1991, and that he had been denied telephone access also.

In re Yost (Dourie); NY FamCT Dutchess Cty, NYLJ 5/20/94

Continued on page 10

Court Cases

Continued from page 9

Concealment of Child

A custodial parent who for many years actively concealed a child from the non-custodial parent cannot subsequently collect child support arrearages for the period of concealment, the California Supreme Court ruled on May 9. The court's decision settled a conflict between lower courts in the state on the issue of whether there is a concealment defense to collection of arrearages. The case before the Supreme Court involved a couple who were divorced in 1960.

According to the father, the mother almost immediately disappeared with the child, and from then until the child became an adult in 1979 the father had no way of making contact, nor was he asked to pay child support. In 1991, the mother sought payment of child support arrearages. The Supreme Court agreed with the lower court that concealment of the child was a factor to consider, although it distinguished between concealment and simple interference with visitation.

The Supreme Court noted that the father had been unable to pay child support, since he did not know where the mother and child were, and that arrearages would not go to support the child, who was now an adult. "The custodial parent should not be allowed to make the payment impossible, then seek arrearages after the purpose of the judgment-payment of support for the benefit of the child has been defeated," the Supreme Court said.

Damico v. Damico Calif SupCt, No. S033148, 5/9/94

Consent to International Move

A German citizen whose American wife left their home in Germany with their three children to visit her parents in Massachusetts, and then decided not to return to Germany with the children, is entitled to the immediate return of their children under the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts held on April 15, 1994. The court rejected the wife's assertion that the father consented to the children's remaining in the U.S., during a period in which the parents attempted reconciliation. The court said the children were "habitually resident" in Germany, and that the father's agreement to the children staying in the U.S. while he attempted a reconciliation should not be construed as an agreement to their staying permanently, if a reconciliation was impossible.

Wanninger v. Wanninger DC Mass, No. 94-30081, 4/15/94

AFDC Reimbursement

A father can be required to repay the state of Florida money paid to a mother under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), even though the divorce decree specifically provided that there would be no child support payments, the Alabama Supreme Court has ruled. When the divorce took place in 1988, custody of the two children was split. The father obtained custody of an older daughter and the mother custody of a younger daughter. The mother subsequently moved from Alabama to Florida with the younger daughter and for a period of time was paid AFDC benefits by Florida. Florida sought recovery of the benefits from the father through the Alabama courts. Alabama law says that a state agency caring for a child can obtain reimbursement from a parent only for the amount of support the parent is already required to pay. However, the Alabama Supreme Court said the fundamental right of a child to financial support could not be waived. The court was not persuaded that the father met his duties by supporting the older daughter. It said the father could be liable for repayment of the AFDC payments.

Ex Parte Alabama ex rel. Summerlin; Ala SupCT, No. 192068, 12/17/93

Visitation Interference Warrants Custody Change

A custodial mother's interference with the visitation rights of a child's father is an adequate ground for

Continued on page 16

The Views of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Acceptance of full parental responsibility by men will make things genuinely equal for women, says Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "This is my dream of the way the world should be," presumably also because of the benefit to children, Ginsburg indicated in an interview in The New York Times, January 7, 1994.

Some of the questions and answers in the interview were as follows:

Q. An unprecedented step you've taken is agreeing to a flexible schedule for one of your law clerks. What made you decide to do that?

A. You have in mind David Post. David clerked for me in the D.C. Circuit. I'm very grateful he was willing to come back to help me this first year. When I received his application for a clerkship several years ago, he explained he was attending Georgetown at night rather than in the day because his wife, an economist, had a demanding job, so he attended to the children in the morning and early afternoon.

I thought, "This is my dream of the way the world should be." When fathers take equal responsibility for the care of their children, that's when women will truly be liberated. I was so pleased to see that there are indeed men who are doing a parent's work, men who do not regard that as strange.

People like David, I hope will be role models for other men who may be fearful they won't succeed in their profession if they spend time caring for their children, or are concerned they will be thought of as less than a man if family is of prime importance.

More than anything else, I believe the acceptance of full parental responsibility by men will make things genuinely equal for women. Women will have truly equal opportunity when men accept responsibility for raising children to the same extent that women do. Is that an impossible dream? I don't think so. The fact that there are people like David Post in the world encourages me."

Children's Rights Council

(CRC)
Number 1513
in the National Combined Federal Campaign

CHILDREN'S CHARITIES of AMERICA

We are a member of the Children's Charities of America (CCA). Look for CCA's listing in the front section of the CFC Brochure, then turn to the page given for CCA's members. We are number 1513.

YOU MUST DESIGNATE 1513 FOR CRC TO RECEIVE FUNDS.

The Children's Rights Council works to assure that children of separation and divorce obtain as much emotional and financial support as children of intact marriages.

Some of CRC's accomplishments:

- Publicized findings that children with two parents generally have fewer problems with drugs and crime than children with only one parent. Proposed changes in attitudes and laws in order to encourage a child's bonding to two parents and extended family.
- Provided the necessary data that led Congress to provide funds for the first time in history to improve access (visitation) between children and their non-custodial parents.
- Promoted the school-based "Banana Splits" program to help children of separation and divorce channel the transition in their lives into stronger academic achievement.

- Award-winner for assisting a county outside Washington, D.C., (Prince George's, MD) in hiring staff to improve bonding between children and their non-custodial parents.
- Won a court case in Ohio upholding a joint custody (shared parenting) agreement approved in Florida between two parents that one of the parents sought to repudiate when the parents moved to Ohio.

- Won a court case in New Jersey upholding a law that allows a judge to give custody to Parent B if Parent A seeks to permanently remove the child to another state without sufficient reason.
- Provided assistance to parents and professionals on how to get through the divorce process in the most peaceful, problem-free way, so as to take the stress out of divorce. Money that would be spent on battling between the parents is available for the children.

CRC only receives funds that you actually designate!

DESIGNATE NUMBER 1513 IN THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN.

The Children's Rights Council is a national non-profit organization at 220 I St., NE #230, Washington, D.C. 20002-4362. Phone: 202/547-6227 FAX: 202/546-4272. To obtain a copy of our Catalog of Resources, Directory of Parenting Organizations, Affiliation Book, Annual Report, or latest audit, write or call CRC. Thank you.

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Children's Rights Council

ALSO KNOWN AS

National Council for Children's Rights

CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL (CRC)

CRC works to strengthen families through education. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for fair financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

There are several ways you can contribute to the Children's Rights Council:

- **through the Combined Federal Campaign if you work for the federal government at any federal office, post office, or military base. CRC is listed as Number 1513 (the same number as last year) in the Children's Charities of America listing;**
- **if you work for the state governments in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin, where we are expected to be listed, because we are recognized as charities in those states;**
- **in the Washington, D. C. and San Francisco Bay Area United Way campaigns, where we are also listed as Number 1513;**
- **If you wish to contribute to CRC through a United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, please ask your employer if you can designate (write in) CRC;**
- ***or* if you wish to contribute directly to CRC, write to CRC, 220"I" Street, N.E., Suite 230, Washington, D.C. 20002.**

Contributions accepted on **Visa, MC**, or **Discovery** credit cards.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

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Children's Rights Council

SUPERVISED ACCESS (VISITATION) PROVISIONS IMPROVED

An initial reading of the crime bill recently signed into law indicates the Wellstone/Sabo provision has been improved. Supervised visitation is one of 14 programs that will have to vie for $90 million in funds over the next several years. Who can quality to run supervised visitation centers appears to be open--not restricted to domestic violence shelters as in the original bill. Funding for these programs will be decided in 1995, after which groups can apply for funds.

There are other prevention programs in other parts of the crime bill involving mentoring, tutoring, etc. which your group might qualify for, in addition to running supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up centers. Call the local office of your Congressmember and ask for a copy of the crime bill, or consult the Congressional Record for either August 21 or August 25, 1994, where the crime bill is printed.

Custody reform activists are a natural for funding. Combine your wide experience and non-profit group status to set up a supervised visitation center. For some of the materials you will need to set up such a program, send $10.00 for postage and handling to either CRC or Dick Woods, 3623 Douglas Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50310.

ACTION ALERT!!! ACTION ALERT!!! ACTION ALERT!!!

Congressmembers are not getting enough letters from people who want balance and fairness in family law legislation.
Write a letter such as the one below.

Representative
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative ----

Senator
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator ---

Children need their parents! Non-custodial parents need jobs, access/visitation/parenting time enforcement, and more balance in family law legislation.

Child support laws are causing billions of dollars of losses to the federal government (the states get incentives to collect support which the states use not to help children, but to build roads and bridges).

General Accounting Office studies and Census Bureau studies say that both custodial and non-custodial parents are dissatisfied with the child support bureaucracy, and that the best way to ensure support payments (and to help parent-deprived children avoid crime and drugs) is to involve parents in the raising of their children.

We need more carrots, not sticks! Require parenting education, job programs, and access/visitation/parenting time rights for children!

Sincerely yours, (sign your name)

Get others to write! Send copies of letters to CRC. Thank you!.

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Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or parent to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives, S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views. The capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the officers of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). This is a 24-hour switchboard, that can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress. During normal business hours on weekdays, the switchboard can connect you with any Congressional office on Capitol Hill. To save on expenses, you can contact the Congressmembers' local branch office in your district.

As part of the Clinton Administration budget bill, passed by a narrow margin in 1993, Congress approved a child support provision that sets up a hospital-based program for the voluntary acknowledgment of paternity during a period immediately preceding or following the birth of a child.

CRC favors parentage establishment, which means that both parents would acknowledge their financial, custody and access responsibilities and rights involving the child. The forms would not determine the extent of financial, custody and access involvement, only that both parents acknowledge such mutual rights and responsibilities exist.

Officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are considering these forms, developed by Laurie Casey, CRC senior policy analyst. Obtain a copy from Laurie and submit it with a covering letter from you urging its adoption to David Gray Ross, Director, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, Washington, D.C. 20201. Also submit the forms, which are already being considered by Vermont officials, to officials in your state. For a copy, contact Laurie at P.O. Box 81, Moriah Center, NY 12961, phone (518) 942-3366. Enclose $5 for postage and handling.

Welfare Reform

H.R. 4605 and S. 2224 (see front page article)H.R. 3500, to provide welfare families with the education, training, job search, and work experience needed to prepare them to leave welfare within two years; to increase the rate of paternity establishment for children receiving welfare benefits, to provide states with greater flexibility in providing welfare, and to strengthen child support enforcement. Rep. Bob Michael (R-IL), (202) 225-6201, and referred to four committees.

Other welfare bills include H.R. 4498, introduced by Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HA), and 42 other Democrats; H.R. 4414, introduced by Rep. Dave McCurdy, D-OK, a House Republican bill (H.R. 3500), and sharply restrictive bills (H.R. 4473 and S. 2134). For a 16-page summary of welfare proposals, ask your House member or Senators (at local office in your state) to send you the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service's "Time-Limited Welfare Proposals" Issue Brief updated June 28, 1994 (or later version).

Financial Child Support

There are about 60 bills in Congress on child support. Here are highlights of some of them.

S. 689, the comprehensive "Bradley bill" (named for its primary sponsor, Sen. Bill Bradley, D-NJ), which would require the states to revoke professional, business, and drivers licenses of parents who owe support, referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

See also H.R. 1600, sponsored by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ), (referred to Consumer Credit and Insurance Subcommittee of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-8872, with various co-sponsors.

H.R. 454, which affects jurisdiction for child support cases, passed by the House, being considered by the Senate. Discussed in Summer/Fall 1993 "Speak Out for Children."

H.R. 555, to ensure that any overdue child support obligations are reported to consumer credit reporting organizations. Sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA). Incorporated into H.R. 915 (see below), for which a hearing was held before a House subcommittee in June, 1994, at which CRC President David L. Levy testified.

H.R. 619, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to assure the completeness and accuracy of consumer information maintained by credit reporting agencies, by including debts owed in the form of unpaid child support by non-custodial parents. Introduced by Rep. McCandless (R-CA), referred to subcommittee on Consumer Credit Service of Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (202) 225-8872.

H.R. 915, would, in regard to child support, deny business and professional licenses to obligors, provide for credit bureau reporting. Introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), referred to Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law of House Judiciary Committee (202) 225-2825.

H.R. 1961, similar to the Bradley bill to revoke occupational, professional and business licenses, and revoke drivers' licenses for those who owe child support; would authorize the IRS to collect child support. The bill would also establish a National Child Support Guidelines Commission; and provide for international child support enforcement. Introduced by Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), (202) 225-2265, referred to Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Post Office and Civil Service, and House Administration.

H.R. 1995, would amend the IRS code to allow an exemption where a noncustodial parent provides over half of the support of the child for a calendar year to claim such child as a dependent. The bill was introduced by Rep. Harold Volkmer (D-MO), and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625. (Current law gives the child deduction to the custodial parent regardless of the parents' relative support contributions).

H.R. 2241, would provide for the establishment of a committee to assist the Secretary of Health and Human Services in developing new criteria and standards for audits of state child support programs, and require the Secretary to promulgate regulations to modify such audits to emphasize program outcomes. Introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), and referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.(This bill would provide for accountability of state child support programs).

H.R. 2355, to require a parent who is delinquent in child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income, and to allow custodial parents a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments. Introduced by Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA), referred to the Ways and Means Committee, (202) 225-3625.

H.R. 2396, to increase access of state child support enforcement agencies to certain financial information of non-custodial parents, and to encourage states to improve their enforcement of child support obligations. Introduced by Rep. Olympia Snow, referred to Consumer Credit Subcommittee, (202) 255-6306.

H.R. 2572. Although supposedly a crime bill, dealing with drug trafficking near schools, sexual exploitation of children and sex offenses, the bill increases interstate enforcement of financial child support orders, and provides fines and imprisonment for international parental kidnapping. Rep. Bill McCollum (D-FL), referred to Judiciary Committee, (202) 255-2176.

H.R. 2790, to ensure economic equity for American women and their families by enhancing economic self-sufficiency through public

Continued on page 12

Bills and Resolutions

Continued from page 11

and private pension reform and improved child support enforcement. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), (202) 225-4431, and referred to two committees.

H.R. 3694, to garnish retirement pay of federal employees for child abuse payments. At a hearing on July 12, American Fathers Coalition Senior Legislative Analyst Stuart Miller testified that Congress should not pass the bill unless it were equally applied to men and women, while CRC President David L. Levy testified that this judgment should not be singled out for collection against retirement pay.

H.R. 4367, to provide for division of pension benefits upon divorce, unless otherwise provided in qualified in domestic relations orders. Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), (202) 225-2265, and referred to two committees.

H.R. 4570, the Child Support Responsibility Act of 1994, which would in part relate to the attachment of public and private retirement funds and would deny federal benefits, loans, and employment to persons who owe child support. Sponsored by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO). At a House hearing on July 12, American Fathers Coalition spokesman Stuart Miller called for incentives, rather than strictly punishment. At the same hearing, CRC President David L. Levy testified that denying employment to persons who owe financial child support was the height of absurdity. The bill was approved by a House committee.

Access/Visitation

S. 870, the Wellstone bill, that would authorize organizations experienced in family violence problems to handle supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up of childre. Passed as part of the crime bill. (More information in next issue.)

S. 967, to provide for the Internal Revenue Service to collect financial child support. Introduced by Sen. Richard Shelby (D-AL). Referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

Family Preservation

Rockefeller

S. 106, to recognize grandparents who serve as the primary caregivers to their grandchildren, and to provide assistance to such grandparents under certain programs. Sen. Richard S. Cohen (R-ME), referred to Finance Committee, (202) 224-4515.

S. 561, Child and Family Services and Law Enforcement Partnership Act, designed to prevent community violence by facilitating interaction between child and family service organizations, law enforcement agencies, local educational agencies, and other community organizations, ways to help prevent violence, and to provide services to those who have witnessed violence. Sponsored by Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT), and passed by Senate as part of the Crime bill, S. 1607.

S. 596, the comprehensive "Rockefeller bill", named for its primary sponsor, Sen. John J. Rockefeller, (D-WV). This family preservation and child protection reform act would provide funds to provide services to help prevent abuse, neglect and family disintegration; would fund intensive family preservation programs designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain with their families (including adoptive families). Referred to Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

H.R. 455, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to remove the barriers and disincentives in the program of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) that prevent recipients of such aid from moving toward self-sufficiency. Introduced by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), referred to Subcommittee on Human Resources of Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625. This bill is expected to be incorporated into the forthcoming Welfare Reform bill.

H.R. 520, the Link-Up for Learning Act, would provide programs for at-risk youth, with the goal of improving their educational performance. Sponsored by Nita Lowey, D-CA. (202) 225-6506.

H.R. 741, to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to provide welfare families with the education, training, job search, and work experience to prepare them to leave welfare within two years, to authorize states to conduct demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of policies designed to help people leave welfare and increase their financial security. Introduced by Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means (202) 225-1025.

Waters

H.R. 1033, to provide grants to improve the quality and availability of comprehensive education, health and social services for at-risk youth and their families, and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters, (202) 225-2201, and referred to Committees on Education and Labor, and Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 1800, to provide set-aside programs for pregnant teenagers that include health care, job training, mentor support and counselling services. Introduced by Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA), referred to Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Educational Committee of Committee on Education and Labor (202) 225-4368.

Tax Code

S. 254, to ensure that any peace dividend is invested in America's families and deficit reduction. Sec. 606A states "The Secretary of the Treasury shall increase the personal exemption for individuals as determined under section 151 of the IRS code of 1986..." Introduced by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), referred to Committee on Budget (202) 224-0642 and Committee on Governmental Affairs (202) 224-4751.

S. 434, to amend the IRS code to allow taxpayers a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments and to require the inclusion in income of child support payments which a taxpayer does not pay—thus taxing the obligor twice (The obligor already pays tax on income that should have been allocated for child support, and this bill would tax him or her again for those portions not paid). Sponsored by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AR), referred to Senate Finance Committee (202) 224-4525.

H.R. 435, to provide tax relief for families, by providing an additional $600 tax deduction for a family for each child under age 19. No

Wolf

provision for who would be eligible for this increased deduction in cases of divorce. Introduced by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), referred to Committee on Ways and Means (202) 225-3625.

H.R. 939, to amend the IRS code to simplify the definition of dependent, to provide a uniform definition of child, and for other purposes. Introduced by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), referred to the Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

H.R. 773, the "Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act of 1993" would amend the IRS code and the Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to state enforcement of financial child support and to require the IRS to collect support through wage withholding. Introduced by Rep. Hyde (R-IL), referred to subcommittee on Human Resources (202) 225-1025 of the House Judiciary Committee.

Domestic Violence

S.6, Sexual Assault Prevention Act of 1993, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole, designed to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women. This bill was absorbed in part by S. 11, "The Biden Bill," the Violence Against Women Act, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and was incorporated into the $1.3 billion crime bill passed by the Senate. Provides $1.8 billion to prevent and punish sexual violence and domestic violence against women, and to establish a national task force on violence against women.

H.R. 522, to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline. Sec. 2(2) states that the hotline shall provide "victims of domestic violence needed access to resources which will refer such victims and their children to safe homes and shelters." Introduced by Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD). Passed as part of the crime bill.

Custody

S. 6, sponsored by Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS), and H.R. 688, sponsored by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), express the sense of Congress that joint custody should not be given to spouse abusers. Congress passed a similar joint custody resolution several years ago sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) (if Congress is going to enter the custody area, traditionally reserved for the states, it should recommend joint custody—shared parenting—as a first option for fit parents, especially as the Census Bureau reports that parents with joint custody and visitation pay far more in financial support than parents without joint custody and visitation. Congress is expected to consider strong financial support legislation this year, and so statistics on who pays and why is important for Congress to factor into its deliberations).

S. 8, to control and prevent crime. Section 2262(2) of the bills says "joint custody forced upon hostile parents can create a damaging psychological environment for a child," while Section 2262(5) says "It is the sense of the Congress that, for the purpose of determining child custody, evidence establishing that a parent engages in physical abuse of a spouse should create a statutory presumption that it is

Continued on page 13

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Bills and Resolutions

Continued from page 12

detrimental to the child to be placed in the custody of the abusive spouse." Introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), referred to Judiciary Committee (202) 224-5225.

H.R. 688, similar to S. 8 (above). Introduced by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY), referred to the subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice of House Judiciary Committee (202) 226-2406.

Child Abuse

H.R. 1120, to strengthen the federal prohibitions against assaulting children. Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN), referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, (202) 225-2871.

H.R 2033, to provide for better protection of children from physical and mental abuse. Rep. Mel Reynolds (D-IL), referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, (202) 225-0773.

Goodling

H.R. 3588, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require a state, in order to be eligible for a grant for child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs, to have in effect a state law providing for the prosecution of a person who makes a report of child abuse or neglect without having a reasonable belief that the report is true. Rep. William Goodling (R-PA), (202) 225-5836. Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

Crime

Washington

H.R. 3315, recognizes the difficulty of primary caretaker parents who are jailed from maintaining relationships with their children; would enable eligible prisoners to live in community correctional facilities with their children. Rep. Craig Washington (D-TX), (202) 225-3816, and referred to two committees.

H.R. 4033, to assist in the prevention of crime by initiating a comprehensive community justice program, including a policy partnership for children and might sports leagues as well as community academics for juveniles who have been incarcerated or are determined to be at risk of violating criminal law. Rep. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), 202-225-6616, and referred to several committees.

Other bills

H.R. 2994, to establish an Office of Family Support in the Department of Justice, to make grants to state and local law enforcement departments, for counselling of law enforcement officers, marital and adolescent support groups, stress reduction programs, and stress education for law enforcement recruits and families. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), and referred to Judiciary Committee, (202) 225-4431.

S. 1138. Because of the difficulty of supporting families on a single wage and the growth of single parent families, a bill to provide resources for child-centered activities on public school facilities. Sen. John Danforth (R-MO), referred to Committee on Labor and Human Resources, (202) 224-4154.

Manpower Demonstration Project

The Parents Fair Share Program, a federally funded pilot program operated in nine states, has achieved 90% compliance with financial child support orders by providing education and retraining for unemployed and underemployed obligors whose children are receiving AFDC benefits.

Participants are also enrolled in peer support groups to assist them with the development of parenting skills while assuring that they remain involved with their children. The cost is $1,400 per participant.

The Washington Post reported "The two-year project demolished some stereotypes attached to parents who are delinquent in child support" (*Washington Post* Feb. 11, 1994).

Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee, March 15, 1994 illustrated the desire for fathers to be involved with and to help support their children.

Gordon Berlin, Senior Vice President of the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, told the House Committee that "The Parents Fair Share pilot experience... lays bare several sobering realities about the potential of 'enforcement' only strategies for increasing (financial) child support collections from the parents of ADFC children... The hard truth is that many non-custodial parents do not pay because they have no income. Before they can pay, they need jobs."

CRC Guideline

Continued from page 4

is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 3709 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz, author of the guideline, for his assistance in getting this guideline passed in the states, write him at 1004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 23181, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

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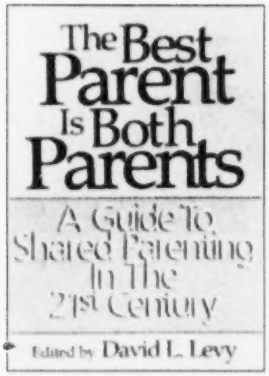

Midwest Book Review Features CRC Book

The CRC Book, "The Best Parent is Both Parents," is featured in the Midwest Book Review, March, 1994 issue. The Review "covers the very best of large and small new publications, and has a circulation of more than 80,000, including acquisition librarians," according to Russell Robertson of Hampton Roads Publishing Company, the publisher of the CRC book.

The 157-page book, which continues to sell at bookstores and through CRC, offers tips to parents and professionals on how to maintain involvement by both parents in the event of divorce. The price of the book is $9.95. Ask a local bookstore for the book; or order from CRC. For orders from CRC, add $3.00 for postage and handling. Book orders for CRC should be addressed to CRC Books, P.O. Box 5568, Friendship Station, Washington, D.C. 20016.

Thanks re: Supernaw

CRC wishes to thank Ron Hoosier, a CRC member in Virginia, who was instrumental in helping CRC make contact with Doug Supernaw, who has become a national spokesperson for CRC. Thank you, Ron, and all others who make contacts for, and network with, the CRC message.

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Psychologist Available for Expert Testimony

Dr. Israel Lichtenstein, Ed.D., licensed clinical psychologist, researcher and CRC member, has published materials on joint custody, and has appeared in many court cases as an expert witness on joint custody. He helped write the Ohio joint custody bill (Senate bill 3) that allows judges to award joint custody over the objections of a parent. He may be reached at Marriage and Divorce Counseling Center, 2100 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219, phone (513) 651-9994.

Investment Accounts

Barry Ringelheim, a CRC member, an investment counselor with the Barney, Shearson and Lehman investment firm, will invest your contribution to CRC in a money market account, and also advise you on your personal investment needs. Barry can be reached in New York City at 1-800-635-0013.

Director of Parenting Education Programs

Elizabeth Hickey, director of Utah's mandatory parenting education program, the first state-wide program of its kind, has accepted as CRC's first national director of parenting education programs. Hickey will work with the many CRC chapter heads and other individuals interested in establishing parenting education programs in their states.

ERROR

In our Spring, 1994, issue of "Speak Out for Children," the years for which Karen DeCrow was president of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) were incorrectly stated. The correct years are 1974-77.

CRC is Number 1513 in Charity Drive

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drives that take place in all federal government offices each October. Campaign time is upon us again. You can contribute to CRC several different ways this Fall:

* through the Combined Federal Campaign if you work for the federal government at any federal office, post office, or military base. CRC is listed as Number 1513 (the same number as last year) in the Children's Charities of America listing, which is part of the Independent Charities of America;

* if you work for the state governments in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin, where we are expected to be listed;

* in the Washington, D.C. and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns, where we are also listed as number 1513.

If you wish to contribute to CRC through a United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, please ask your employer if you can designate (write in) CRC.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution direct to CRC, send it to CRC, 220 "I" Street, Suite 230, Washington, D.C. 20002.

CRC also wishes to thank all those who contribute to CRC through the Global Focus credit card campaign run by MBNA American Bank, in Newark, Delaware.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new address to CRC, 220 "I" Street N.W., Suite 230, Washington, DC 20002.

Chapter News

Maryland

Make-up of Access (Visitation) Becomes Law

Maryland has passed an access (visitation) enforcement bill, which provides three remedies for interference with visitation: (1) make-up of visitation; (2) modification of the visitation order with additional terms designed to ensure future compliance; or (3) assessment of costs or counsel fees against the person who interfered with visitation.

Under make-up of visitation, if, say, a weekend of access had been denied by the custodial parent to the child and non-custodial parent, a judge could order an extra weekend of access, to make up for the time that was missed.

For modification, this could involve increasing the amount of visitation or providing terms more agreeable to the non-custodial parent. This might mean, for the above example, ordering an extra two weekends of access, not just the one make-up weekend;

A judge could also assess costs or counsel fees to be paid for by the custodial parent.

A judge has the authority to order any or all of the three remedies, but it helps if parents are aware of such a law, and thus know what to request. The law, which takes effect October 1, 1994, is in Section 9-105 of the annotated code of Maryland.

Copies of the new law can be provided by Harvey Walden, CRC coordinator in Maryland, at 417 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910, for $3.00 for postage and handling.

Ask the legislators in your state to introduce such legislation, if it is not already in effect.

Walden credits a number of Maryland custody reform activists for working closely with legislators in Annapolis over several years to obtain passage of the new law.

Fund-Raising in New York State

The New York State chapter of CRC has raised funds from Burger King and Parents Without Partners International (PWP).

As to Burger King, the outlet in the upstate Binghamton, New York area provides free flyers to CRC members, who distribute them in the neighborhood of the store during certain hours. Customers who then enter Burger King during those hours and say they would like a portion of the profits to go to CRC, produce about $120 in profits from sales during a three-hour period.

Kim Boedecker-Frey, president of the chapter, urges people to check with their local Burger Kings elsewhere in the country to see if they will cooperate in such a venture.

As to PWP, the local PWP chapter has given $792 profit from one of their dances to the New York State CRC, because a goal of PWP International is to benefit charities such as CRC.

The local PWP group asked Boedecker-Frey to speak at their August meeting about CRC.

The CRC chapter is also anticipating a grant from the New York State Office of Mental Health of $750 to cover the start-up costs of parent education seminars to separating and divorcing parents. The program has the support of the three local family court judges in Broome County, New York (the Binghamton area).

Florida

Green Ribbons for Children "Held Hostage"

Piotr Blass, head of CRC's southern Florida chapter, has suggested that green ribbons be displayed on houses and as armbands to signal that many children are being "held hostage" as a result of a system that does not adequately distinguish between real and false charges of child sexual abuse.

Blass was, according to Dr. Richard Sauber, a Boca Raton, Florida psychologist, the victim of "false and fabricated" charges of child sexual abuse by two of the child's relatives. Sauber, who investigated the case, made the statement in a June 15, 1994 letter to Florida Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS), the state agency that handles allegations of abuse.

Hundreds of Blass's math students at Palm Beach Atlantic College have written letters of support attesting to a healthy relationship between Blass and his son David, age 5. Blass asked that a blue sash be added to the green ribbon for his son David.

The state investigation is reportedly nearly concluded.

Dwight Twilley New Spokesperson for CRC

Dwight Twilley, pop singer and songwriter, who is author of the book entitled *Questions from Dad*, has accepted as a national spokesperson for CRC.

Twilley, whose ballad "Why You Wanna Break My Heart" was featured in the 1992 movie "Wayne's World," sang and spoke at CRC's conference in April. He lives in Los Angeles.

Twilley was inspired to write Questions from Dad as a means of keeping in touch with his daughter, Dionne. The book has been featured in People magazine, on The Maury Povich show, and on satellite TV station hook-ups.

The book contains questions and illustrations from Twilley, and responses from his daughter, who wrote fun things and questions back to her dad.

The book has been recommended for parents and grandparents who want to maintain contact with their children and grandchildren.

In accepting as a spokesperson, Twilley said that he is "looking forward to a perfect world, and the day when the Children's Rights Council will disband because it is no longer necessary."

"We are delighted that Dwight Twilley has accepted as a national spokesperson for CRC," said CRC president David L. Levy, "to lend his talent, and his voice, to the cause of children's rights."

Grandparents Group, Other Groups Form in 6 States

A grandparents group based in Indiana has affiliated with CRC. The group, called G.R.I.N.S., which stands for Grandparent Rights in New Strength, is headed by Ray and Kay Berryhill. G.R.I.N.S. has 28 chapters in Indiana, contacts in more than 30 states, and is listed as a resource group with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in Washington, D.C. G.R.I.N.S., which replaces a grandparents' group previously affiliated with CRC, was recommended for affiliation by David Dinn, CRC Indiana coordinator.

New CRC chapters have opened in the past few months in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Florida, New Hampshire, Nebraska, and Arkansas.

Michael Pitts is heading a chapter in Boston. Shortly after giving widely-praised testimony before legislative committees in Boston, Pitts's chapter was cited by the Massachusetts House of Representatives for its efforts on behalf of children. Because Pitts' also works on the national level, he has been named a policy advisor to national CRC. Carl Bryden and Ted Ell have also formed chapters in Massachusetts.

Howard Lemell has formed a new chapter in Florida. Lemell has taken a leaf from the national CRC practice of forming an advisory panel of prominent individuals, in this case individuals who live or work primarily in the south Florida geographic area served by the chapter. The advisors' names on the chapter's letterhead stationery have already begun to open doors for the chapter, said Lemell.

Bob Adams, a long-time activist for custody reform, has formed a Connecticut chapter together with Eleanora Drechsel, head of Mothers Protecting Children. A crucial point in Adams' activism occurred several years ago when his group threatened to picket the home of the local congresswoman, Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), unless she would talk to the group. She talked; the picketing did not have to occur. Drechsel's group is, like national CRC, a member of the Children's Coalition of America, a coalition of about 270 groups based in Washington, D.C.

Dwayne Hall, an accountant, the new Arkansas coordinator, lives in Texarkana, which is half in Arkansas and half in Texas. Dwayne has set up a computer forum on the Internet, called "KidsFirst", phone (903) 793-4994, fax: (903) 793-5593, E-mail: DwayneH290@Delphi.Com, Hotline: (800) 416-6259, Forum: Custom forum 208 on Delphi Internet Access, Delphi: (800) 695-4004 (Voice Line).

Bob Burk is assembling a group of men and women to form a New Hampshire chapter. Bob has attended the last two CRC conferences.

Lynn and Bill Huerter, long-time custody reform advocates in Nebraska, have affiliated their organization with CRC.

Ivy Walker and Rick Grobe are new heads of existing chapters in California and Alaska, respectively.

Welfare Reform

Continued from page 3

A CRC delegation, headed by Michael Pitts, director of CRC's Boston chapter, held separate meetings in June with White House Deputy Domestic Policy Advisor William Galston and Child Support Director David Gray Ross to discuss CRC's proposals. Both officials praised CRC's emphasis on strengthening families through education.

American Fathers Coalition (AFC) President Bill Harrington has also held numerous meetings with Administration officials and Congressional staff to discuss AFC proposals.

The National Society of Professional Engineers, based in Alexandria, Virginia, issued a statement opposing revocation of licenses "based upon non (engineering) practice related criteria (e.g. child support orders, tax disputes, student loan repayment, substance abuse, public library infractions, or others)."

Survey on Infants and Toddlers

Robert Fay, M.D., is interested in information about situations in which children under age 3 are being brought up or who were brought up in two homes with two separated parents. That is, Dr. Fay needs people to contact him who have or have had joint custody, including overnights, of children under age 3. As you may know, Judith Wallerstein is doing funded research on the effects of overnights on children under 3, and Wallerstein focuses on the pathological (the worst case scenarios). Dr. Fay is interested in all outcomes, good and bad. The work Dr. Fay does may increase our understanding of the issue. If you have or have had joint custody of infants under 3, contact Dr. Fay at 1618 Richard Street, Schenectady, NY 12303, phone 518-393-2477. Respondents will only have to answer a questionnaire.

Court Cases

Continued from page 10

changing physical custody to the father, the Iowa Supreme Court has ruled. The parents had joint custody, but the mother had primary physical custody. The court found that the mother's interference with custody adversely affected her ability to parent the child. A move by the mother from Iowa to Colorado did nothing to improve her physical or financial situation, but simply resulted in limiting the child's contacts with the father, the court noted.

In re Quirk-Edwards; Iowa SupCt., No. 423/93-09, 12/22/93.

All but the first three cases above cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter. They appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Chapters exist in 29 states

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community, write to Eric Anderson, address below, and enclose $10.00 for photocopying and postage.

This 37-page booklet explains everything you want to know about affiliation.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
P.O. Box 27417
Houston, TX 77227-7418
Jennifer Isham, president
1-800-457-MWOC
Joint membership in MWOC and CRC: $35.00 a year

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 212
Lincoln, Nebraska 66505
(402) 477-7837
Kevin Ricker, president
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

Grandparent Rights in New Strength (G.R.I.N.S.)
0689 CR 5
Corunna, Indiana 46730
(219) 281-2384
Ray and Kay Berryhill, co-directors
Contributions accepted to G.R.I.N.S.
Members of G.R.I.N.S. join CRC for $20 a year

Kids Express
P.O. Box 782
Littleton, CO 80160-0782
Linda Sartori, publisher
Subscription: $20 a year. Mention CRC

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Alabama
CRC of Alabama
P.O. Box 750
Montrose, AL 36559
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(205) 928-0464

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Alaska Dads and Moms
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Fathers for Equal Rights, Inc.
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Dick Woods, coordinator

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Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents
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Boston, MA 02108
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Michael Pitts, director

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Sandwich, MA 02563
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Ted Ell, president

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Rochester, MN 55901
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Bruce Kaskubar, coordinator

Missouri - See Kansas/Missouri

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Non-Custodial Parents of Nebraska
P.O. Box 300
Boys Town, NE 68010-0300
(402) 330-4567
Bill and Lyn Heurter, chairs

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Kathryn Gibson, coordinator

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Austin, TX 78711
(512) 499-8CRC
Eric Anderson, coordinator and National Chapter coordinator

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Vermonters for Strong Families
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Heartland, VT 05048
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Chesapeake, VA 23325
(804) 463-KIDS
Michael Ewing, president
Cindy Lewis Ewing, coordinator

Fathers United for Equal Rights and Women's Coalition
P.O. Box 1323
Arlington, VA 22210-1323
(703) 451-8580
Paul Robinson, president

CRC of Virginia, Roanoke Valley chapter
433 Howard Drive
Salem, VA 24153
(703) 382-0150
Barry Young, president

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Here are *Some SPECIAL ADDITIONS* to the

Children's Rights Council

1994

CATALOG OF RESOURCES

for parents and professionals

The CRC catalog lists more than 100 books, written reports, audio-cassettes, model bills, and gifts for children. Members can receive additional free copies of the catalog by contacting CRC. Non-members can order one for $1. Write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, NE, Suite 230, Washington, DC 20002-4362.

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We have received word that Dr. Richard A. Gardner has a brand new book coming out, in mid-October 1994, and we want to pass this information along to you so that you can get ready for this helpful reading:

Since the 1980s, Dr. Gardner has been developing criteria for differentiating between true and false sex-abuse accusations. Over the years he has noted that there was no good protocol for conducting such evaluations. So he has devised a series of protocols which he believes should prove useful for examiners involved in these important and demanding evaluations. These six separate evaluative protocols, all included in this one book, are shown below. Furthermore, he provides throughout specific questions to enhance the use of the protocols:

1) The Alleged Child Victim
2) The Male Alleged Perpetrator
3) The Female Alleged Perpetrator
4) The Accuser, When the Accused is a Family Member
5) The Accuser, When the Accused is Not a Family Member
6) The Adult Female Belated Accuser/Victim

This book will be available from CRC mid-October for **$40.00**

Several of the other Dr. Gardner books CRC carries are:
The Parental Alienation Syndrome, **BKA-803, 348 pg. HB $30.00**
True and False Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse, **BKA-807, 748 pg. HB $45.00**
Family Evaluation in Child Custody Mediation, Arbitration, and Litigation, **BKE-603, 690 pg. HB $35.00**

People Are Telling Each Other . . . that they find this book very helpful

Children Held Hostage: Dealing With Programmed and Brainwashed Children,
by Stanley Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S., and Brynne Rivlin, M.M.S.,
BKA-808, 200 pg. SB $45.00

It discusses Programming and Brainwashing during custody battles.
CRC carries this hard-to-get book.

. . . and People Are Also Saying ... that they find the following, as well as many other books and items in the CRC Catalog, to be very helpful:

*Families A*P*A*R*T 10 Keys To Successful Co-Parenting*, **BKP-223, $22.95**
For The Sake Of The Children, **BKP-211, $17.95**
The Father Factor: What You Need to Know to Make a Difference, **BKF-409, $10.00**
Step Motherhood: How to Survive Without Feeling Frustrated, Left Out or Wicked, **BKF-410, 222 pg. $4.00**
Good Will Toward Men [interviews promoting better understanding between men and women], **BKF-411, 200 pg. $12.00**

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☐ For my membership of more than $35 or renewal, send me a list of free items I'm entitled to (the higher the contributions, the more items that are free).

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